

Aruba

TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, September 26, 2011

Abbas On Top

DALIA NAMMARI

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— President Mahmoud Abbas received a hero's welcome Sunday from thousands of cheering, flag-waving Palestinians, having



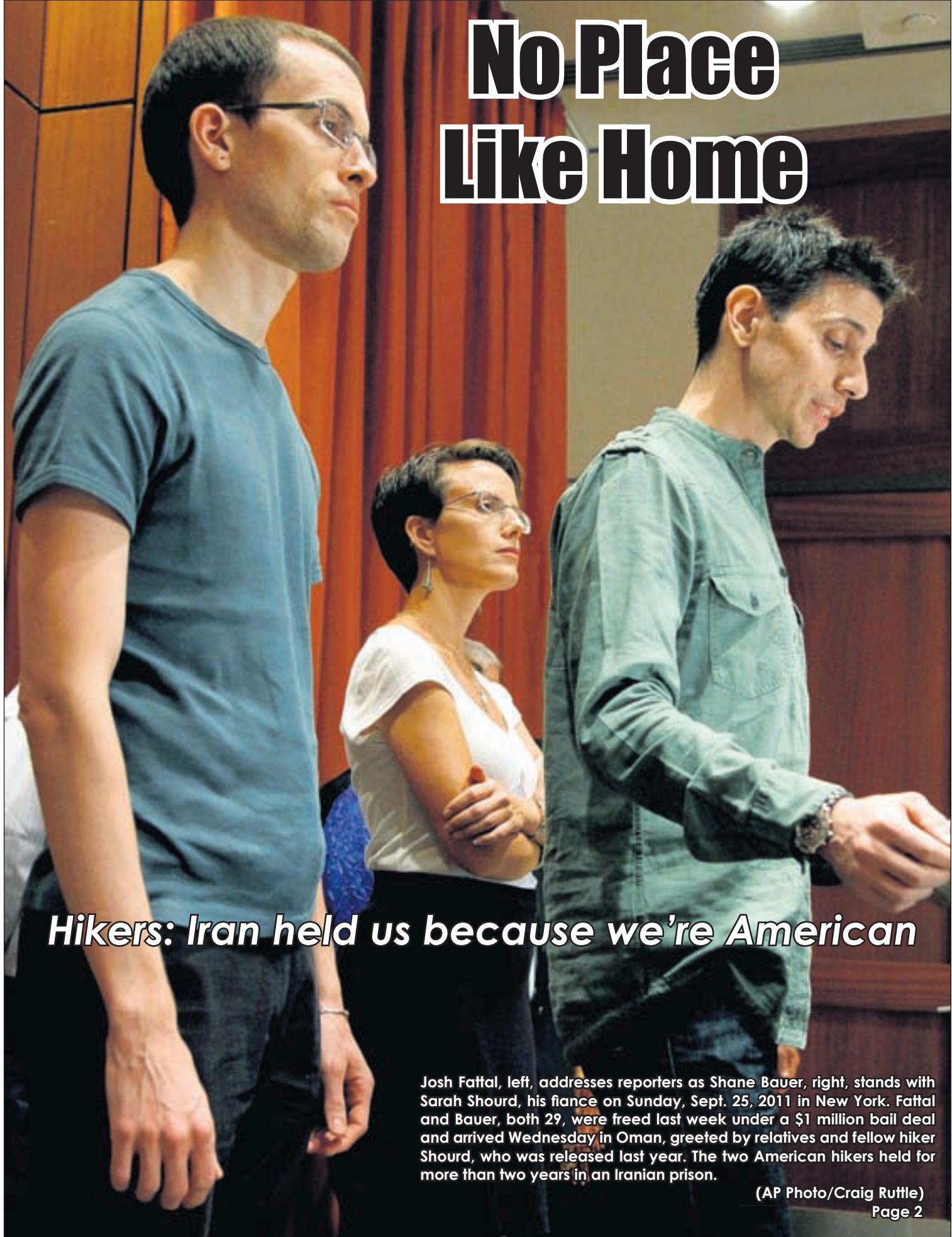
Palestinians hold pictures of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the government compound, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. Abbas has received a hero's welcome in the West Bank, triumphantly telling his people the "Palestinian Spring" has begun following his historic speech to the U.N. last week.

made a bid for United Nations recognition that appears destined to fail but has allowed him to finally step out of the shadow of his iconic predecessor Yasser Arafat.

The crowd, many of them holding posters of Abbas, repeatedly chanted his name as he spoke.

Continued on next Page

No Place Like Home



With UN bid, Abbas rises out of Arafat's shadow

Continued from front

Abbas was uncharacteristically animated, shaking his hands, waving to the audience and charming the crowd with references to "my brothers and sisters." Abbas' call Friday for the U.N. to recognize Palestinian independence has transformed him in the eyes of many Palestinians from gray bureaucrat to champion of their rights. Though Israel and the United States oppose the move and consider it a step back for long-stalled peace talks, it could help Abbas overcome internal struggles and gain the support he will need to get a deal through one day.

In a brief address outside his headquarters in Ramallah, Abbas told the crowd that a "Palestinian Spring" had been born, similar to the mass demonstrations sweeping the region in what has become known as the Arab Spring.

"We have told the world that there is the Arab Spring, but the Palestinian Spring is here," he said. "A popular spring, a populist spring, a spring of peaceful struggle that will reach its goal."

He cautioned that the Palestinians face a "long path" ahead. "There are those who would put out

favors suits and typically drones on in monotone. In seeking U.N. recognition, Abbas "moved the

respected Palestinian academic in Jerusalem. "He gave the people national pride after they were denied it."

Abbas' calls for nonviolence and his successes in restoring law and order to the West Bank have won him respect in Israel and abroad. But at home, he is often seen as weak and ineffectual in his dealings with Israel and the rival Hamas movement, which seized control of the Gaza Strip from his forces in 2007. Abdul-Hadi said that at the end of a long career, Abbas is thinking about his legacy and wants to be remembered as the man who led his people to independence. He said it was no accident that on Sunday, Abbas delivered his speech outside the memorial where Arafat is buried.

Abbas has asked the U.N. Security Council to recog-

nize an independent Palestine in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. Some 500,000 Jewish settlers now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

Abbas is turning to the United Nations in frustration after nearly two decades of unsuccessful peace efforts that were derailed at various times by violence, indecision and intransigence. Abbas says he will return to the negotiating table only if Israel halts settlement construction and accepts the pre-1967 lines as the basis for talks.

Israel and the U.S. oppose the U.N. bid, saying there is no substitute for direct negotiations. But with Israel continuing to build settlements, Abbas says there is no point in talking. □



Palestinian Samir Badran, center, embraces one of her daughters during the funeral of her husband Issam Badran in the West Bank village of Qusra. Badran, shown in picture in foreground, was shot dead during a clash with Israeli soldiers and settlers. The shooting came at a time of heightened tensions over Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' bid Friday to seek U.N. recognition for a state of Palestine.

obstacles ... but with your presence they will fall and we will reach our end," he said.

The dynamic public appearance was a noticeable change for the 76-year-old Abbas, who was elected shortly after Arafat's death seven years ago. While Arafat was known for his trademark olive-green military garb and fiery speeches, Abbas

(AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

feelings and emotions of the ordinary Palestinian," said Mahdi Abdul-Hadi, a

Freed hikers: Iran held us because we're American



From left, Sarah Shourd, Shane Bauer, and Josh Fattal, stand together after a news conference on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011 in New York. Fattal and Bauer, both 29, were freed last week under a \$1 million bail deal and arrived Wednesday in Oman, greeted by relatives and fellow hiker Shourd, who was released last year. The two American hikers held for more than two years in an Iranian prison.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

Continued from front

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two American hikers held for more than two years in an Iranian prison came home Sunday, ending a diplomatic and personal ordeal with a sharp rebuke of the country that accused

them of crossing the border from Iraq. They declared that they were detained because of their nationality, not their actions.

Joshua Fattal and Shane Bauer, both 29, were freed last week under a \$1 million bail deal and arrived Wednesday in Oman, greeted by relatives and

fellow hiker Sarah Shourd, who was released last year. Their saga began in July 2009 with what they called a wrong turn into the wrong country. The three say they were hiking together in Iraq's relatively peaceful Kurdish region along the Iran-Iraq border when Iranian guards detained them. They always maintained their innocence, saying they might have accidentally wandered into Iran. The two men were convicted of spying last month. Shourd, whom Bauer proposed marriage to while they were imprisoned, was charged but freed before any trial. Shourd said a "huge burden" has been lifted now that her two friends are free. She said she had felt "it was very wrong" that she was alone when she first came home. The men took turns reading statements at a news conference Sunday in New York, surrounded by relatives and with Shourd at their side. They didn't take questions from reporters. □

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Obama: Republicans would 'cripple' US

SEATTLE (AP) — President Barack Obama took his newly combative message to the liberal West Coast on Sunday, aiming to re-energize faithful Democratic voters who have grown increasingly disenchanted with him.

The three-day trip, ending Tuesday in Denver, comes as Obama has shifted from seeking compromise with Republicans in Congress to calling out House Speaker John Boehner and others by name. The president has criticized them as obstructionists and demanded their help in passing his \$447 billion jobs bill. This approach is a relief to Democratic activists fed up by what they viewed as the president's ceding of ground to the Republicans on tax cuts and other issues when the economy has stalled and unemployment is stuck

above 9 percent. Obama's three-day trip offers him the chance to try

sive new message as the 2012 campaign revs up. At his first fundraiser in Se-

ment intended to buck up the faithful as the 2012 campaign revs up.

"From the moment I took office what we've seen is a constant ideological push-back against any kind of sensible reforms that would make our economy work better and give people more opportunity," the president said at an intimate brunch fundraiser at the Medina, Washington state, home of former Microsoft executive Jon Shirley. About 65 guests were paying \$35,800 per couple to listen to Obama at the first of seven fundraisers he was holding from Seattle to Hollywood to San Diego on Sunday and Monday.

Obama said 2012 would be an especially tough election because people are discouraged and disillusioned with government,

but he also said he was determined because so much is at stake. The Republican alternative, Obama said, is "an approach to government that will fundamentally cripple America in meeting the challenges of the 21st century." Obama got a friendly welcome from invited guests at his first stop. But elsewhere liberal activists were making plans to greet the president with demonstrations criticizing his policies or reminding him they want him to do more. "We want to see Obama stand up as strongly as he can to fight for the people of this country who are working out there to make ends meet," said Kathy Cummings, communications director for the Washington State Labor Council. The council was helping organize a demonstration outside Seattle's Paramount Theater, the site of an Obama fundraiser later Sunday. □



President Barack Obama, right, is introduced by NBA basketball hall-of-famer, Bill Russell, left, during a Democratic fundraiser at the Paramount Theater, Sunday, Sept., 25, 2011, in Seattle, Wash. President Obama took his newly combative message to the liberal West Coast on Sunday, aiming to re-energize faithful Democratic voters who have grown increasingly disenchanted with him.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

to reassure some of his most liberal and deep-pocketed supporters with his aggres-

attle, Obama mixed frontal attacks on Republicans with words of encourage-

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Videos show police using pepper spray in street protest

JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

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NEW YORK — For a few moments on Saturday, the confrontations between the police and the protesters just south of Union Square in Manhattan seemed fairly typical. People pushed, the police shoved and arrests were made, and in the many videos recording the protest, it was not always clear which of the three had come first. As the police arrested a protester in the street, an officer wearing a white shirt — indicating a rank of lieutenant or above — walked toward a small group of women nearby and sent a blast of pepper spray into some of their faces, the videos show.

Numerous videos and photos captured the aftermath: Several women crumpled on the sidewalk in pain, screaming for help. Their eyes were temporarily blinded, according to one of the women, Chelsea Elliott. Elliott, 25, acknowledged “there were some rough people out there” at the protests, but she said that neither she nor the women around her did anything to warrant being pepper sprayed. “Out of all the people they chose to spray, it was just me and three other girls,” she said

in a telephone interview on Sunday. “I’m not pushing against anybody, or trying to escape.” The New York Police Department’s chief spokesman, Paul J. Browne,

cupied Zuccotti Park on Liberty Street and Broadway, seeking attention for what they say is a financial system that is unjust and flawed. They have



A protester helps another wrap caution tape around her face at Zuccotti Park, where people have been encamped as part of a lengthy protest in the financial district, in New York. About 80 protesters were arrested on Saturday when hundreds of people, including some of the protesters encamped at the park, marched north to Union Square.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

said the police had used the pepper spray “appropriately.”

“Pepper spray was used once,” he added, “after individuals confronted officers and tried to prevent them from deploying a mesh barrier — something that was edited out or otherwise not captured in the video.”

Since Sept. 17, a few hundred protesters have oc-

embarked on a series of daily marches near Wall Street, but their march to Union Square on Saturday was their largest and most ambitious yet.

Returning to the financial district from Union Square, many protesters walked along University Place, and the demonstration spilled into the street with protesters walking against traffic. The po-

lice put up mesh nets to prevent them from going any farther down University Place, and many of the demonstrators ended up on East 12th Street. Elliott was one of several protesters on East 12th Street who had been corralled behind the plastic netting, which was being held by a line of police officers. Elliott said she spent part of the time trying to engage the police officer nearest her

was sprayed, but doing nothing else to attract attention. “A cop in a white shirt — I think he’s a superior officer — just comes along and does these quick little spritzes of pepper spray in my and these three other girls’ eyes,” she added. The officer’s identity was not provided by the police. The scene around Elliott verged on the unruly on Saturday. The police made arrests in the area on



Representatives of the property owners hand out a list of new rules in Zuccotti Park.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

in a conversation about pensions. “I’m just trying to converse with them in a civilized manner, and tell them I’m a civilized human being,” Elliott said. She remembered saying, “Stop! Why are you doing this?” in the moments before she

charges not only of disorderly conduct and impeding traffic, but of inciting to riot and assaulting a police officer. About 80 people were arrested Saturday; some spent the night in jail and were arraigned on Sunday. □



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Amid debris, flood victims cast eye on congress

ROBERT PEAR

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TUNKHANNOCK, Pa. — Standing in the living room of their house, now full of mud, slime and debris, Helen and Peter Kelly cannot believe that Congress is bickering over disaster aid to people like them.

The roaring waters of the Susquehanna River burst into their home more than two weeks ago. "Water – you work with it every day, and then it destroys your whole life," Helen Kelly said. Her husband, still looking shell-shocked, said: "We lost everything. Stove, washer, dryer, TV."

Hot water heater, clothes, dishes, refrigerator. Everything, just gone."

The Kellys also lost confidence in the government and politicians.

"I wish they would understand that people like us are really in need of assistance," Peter Kelly said, pointing to a bathtub filled with mud and to the blades of a ceiling fan twisted out



Peter Kelly and his wife, Helen, stand near debris left on the street after their home was damaged by flood waters from the Susquehanna River, in Mehoopany. The Senate is scheduled to take a test vote today on a stopgap spending bill that includes money for disaster relief, but the action may not break an impasse on spending with the House.

(Niko Kallianiotis/The New York Times)

of shape by torrents of flood water.

A few miles away in Falls Township, Pa., houses were upended, lifted off their foundations and carried a

few hundred feet downstream.

Huge piles of rubbish, furniture, mattresses, carpets and clothing line the streets. Michael J. Golembeski and

Police recordings key part of beating case

THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As Fullerton police Officer Manuel Ramos approached a homeless man at a bus stop in July, he did what members of his department have been doing for a decade. He clicked on an audio recorder normally used to capture witness statements and exonerate officers accused of misconduct.

But prosecutors say the recorder captured something entirely different: the officer murdering a defenseless man suffering from schizophrenia.

Police agencies across America are increasingly using audio and video devices to collect evidence, and they played a crucial role in prosecutors bringing murder charges this week against Ramos and an involuntary manslaughter

count against a colleague, Cpl. Jay Cicinelli.

The violent encounter with Kelly Thomas was captured on surveillance video, but prosecutors say it was only when they paired the images with police audio that they understood what they were seeing. They said Thomas was pummeled, shocked with a Taser, beaten with a stun gun and taunted by Ramos as he stood over the victim and declared: "Now see my fists? They are getting ready to F you up."

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas called that statement — and the fact it was recorded — a turning point.

"This encounter had changed from a fairly routine police detention into an impending beating at the hands of an angry police officer," Rackauckas said. "Ramos instilled in the

victim a reasonable fear that his life was in danger."

Fullerton uses a device sold by Riverside-based Versatile Information Products Inc., which contracts with electronics-maker Olympus to customize standard digital voice recorders.

At the end of each shift, officers transfer files onto a server that backs them up as long as needed. The devices, used by hundreds of police agencies, do not let officers edit files, and they show if anything has been deleted.

Device salesman Stephen Gaskins said the units cost about \$300 a piece, with the software to back up the files available separately.

"Expensive, but not as daunting as what lawsuits cost," Gaskins said, referring to the frequency the devices provide evidence to exonerate officers wrongly accused of misconduct. □

his family spent the weekend cleaning up. Golembeski offered a sardonic take on the fight that has brought the federal government to the brink of a shutdown — a dispute between Republicans and Democrats in Congress over money for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which provides aid in disasters like this one. "Neither side wants the other side to get credit for doing anything good," Golembeski said. "Elections are coming up."

With just five days to go before the start of a new fiscal year, the Senate is scheduled to take a test vote Monday on a stopgap spending bill that includes money for disaster relief. □

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Senator:

Consider military action in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday that the U.S. should consider military action against Pakistan if it continues to support terrorist attacks against American troops in Afghanistan. "The sovereign nation of Pakistan is engaging in hostile acts against the United States and our ally Afghanistan that must cease," Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina told "Fox News Sunday."

He said if experts decided that the U.S. needs to "elevate its response," he was confident there would be strong bipartisan support in Congress for such action. Graham did not call for military action but said "all options" should be considered. He said assistance to Pakistan should be reconfigured and that the



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., left, accompanied by Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Graham said Sunday that the U.S. should consider military action against Pakistan if it continues to support terrorist attacks against American troops in Afghanistan.

U.S. should no longer designate an amount of aid for Pakistan but have a more "transactional relationship" with the country. "They're killing American soldiers," he said. "If they continue to embrace terrorism as a part of their national strat-

egy, we're going to have to put all options on the table, including defending our troops." In testimony last week to Graham's committee, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, said Pakistan's powerful military

intelligence agency had backed extremists in planning and executing the assault on the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan and a truck bomb attack that wounded 77 American soldiers. Both occurred this month. Mullen contended that the Haqqani insurgent network "acts as a veritable arm" of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency as it undermined U.S.-Pakistan relations, already tenuous because of the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan exports violence, Mullen said, and threatens any success in the 10-year-old war. Graham said Pakistan does cooperate with the U.S. in actions against al-Qaida. But he said the Pakistani military feels threatened by a democracy in Afghanistan and is betting that the Taliban will come back there. □

Congressional deficit-cutting faces real battle

JACKIE CALMES
JENNIFER STEINHAUER
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WASHINGTON — As if expectations were not low enough for the special congressional committee charged with writing a deficit-reduction deal, they seem to be falling by the day as the two parties harden their positions on spending and taxes.

Last week began with contradictory markers from President Barack Obama and Speaker John A. Boehner.

Boehner reiterated that Republicans would oppose any tax increases, and then Obama, newly aggressive, warned that he would veto any measure that would trim Medicare benefits without also raising taxes on the wealthy.

Each man was reinforcing a stand that most lawmakers in their respective parties had already taken, which is why talks between Obama and Boehner broke down twice in July. The week ended with the Republican-controlled House and the Democratic-controlled Senate at an impasse over a routine but essential measure for financing government operations for the new fiscal year (which will start on Saturday), with Republicans demanding more spending cuts to offset domestic disaster aid. Some Republicans have pushed for even deeper short-term cuts than were agreed to in August in the deal to raise the federal debt ceiling. □

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Saudi women get right to vote, can't drive yet

ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, considered a reformer by the standards of his own ultraconservative kingdom, decreed on Sunday that women will for the first time have the right to vote and run in local elections due in 2015.

It is a "Saudi Spring" of sorts. For the nation's women, it is a giant leap forward, though they remain unable to serve as Cabinet ministers, drive or travel abroad without permission from a male guardian.

Saudi women bear the brunt of their nation's deeply conservative values, often finding themselves the target of the unwanted attention of the kingdom's intrusive religious police, who enforce a rigid interpretation of Islamic Shariah law on the streets and public places like shopping malls and university campuses.

In itself, Sunday's decision to give the women the right to vote and run in municipal elections may not be enough to satisfy the growing ambition of the kingdom's women who, after years of lavish state spending on education and vocational training, significantly improved their standing but could not secure the same place in society as that of their male compatriots.

That women must wait four more years to exercise their newly acquired right to vote adds insult to injury since Sunday's announcement was already a long time coming — and



King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia delivers a speech to the Saudi Shura Council, or advisory assembly, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. Saudi King Abdullah has given the kingdom's women the right to vote for first time in nationwide local elections, due in 2015.

(AP Photo)

the next local elections are in fact scheduled for this Thursday. "Why not tomorrow?" asked prominent Saudi feminist Wajeha al-Hawaider. "I think the king doesn't want to shake the country, but we look around us and we think it is a shame ... when we are still pondering how to meet simple women's rights."

The announcement by King Abdullah came in an annual speech before his advisory assembly, or Shura Council. It was made after he consulted with the nation's top religious clerics, whose advice carries great weight in the kingdom.

It is an attempt at "Saudi style" reform, moves that avoid antagonizing the powerful clergy and a conservative segment of the population.

Additionally, it seems to be part of the king's drive to insulate his vast, oil-rich country from the upheavals sweeping other Arab nations, with popular uprisings toppling regimes that

once looked as secure as his own.

Fearing unrest at home, the king in March announced a staggering \$93 billion package of incentives, jobs and services to ease the hardships experienced by some Saudis. In the meantime, he sent troops to neighbor and close ally Bahrain to help the tiny nation's Sunni ruling family crush an uprising by majority Shiites pressing for equal rights and far-reaching reforms. In contrast, King Abdullah in August withdrew the Saudi ambassador from Syria to protest

President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on a seven-month uprising that calls for his ouster and the establishment of a democratic government.

"We didn't ask for politics, we asked for our basic rights. We demanded that we be treated as equal citizens and lift the male guardianship over us," said Saudi activist Maha al-Qahtani, an Education Ministry employee who defied the ban on women driving earlier this year. "We have many problems that need to be addressed immediately." □

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Friend: Knox can't eat, sleep as verdict nears

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — Amanda Knox can't sleep or eat properly as she waits to know if an appeals court in Italy will uphold or overturn her murder conviction, a friend of the jailed American student said. A verdict is expected in early October, capping an appeals trial that began almost a year ago.

Knox was convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering Meredith Kercher, her British roommate in Perugia, and sentenced to 26 years in prison.

Knox's boyfriend at the time of the 2007 murder, Raffaele Sollecito of Italy, was convicted of the same charges and sentenced to 25 years. They deny wrongdoing and have appealed their convictions, issued by a lower court in 2009.

Madison Paxton, a friend from the University of Washington who has moved to Perugia to be close to Knox and visits her in prison regularly, told The Associated Press that Knox has no energy and tires very easily.

"In these days coming to-



Amanda Knox attends a hearing of her appeals trial at the Perugia court, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011. Italian prosecutors have asked in their final arguments that the appeals court should increase Amanda Knox's prison sentence to life for the murder of her British roommate, and the same sentence for Knox's co-defendant, Raffaele Sollecito, who have been convicted for the 2007 slaying. The lower court had sentenced Knox to 26 years and Sollecito to 25 years for the slaying of Meredith Kercher, although both defendants deny wrongdoing.

(AP Photo/Stefano Medici)

wards the end, finding very peaceful moments is hard for her," Paxton said Sunday.

"Her sleep is very disturbed, her eating is very disturbed."

The 24-year-old Knox has visibly lost weight and appears worn out by four years behind bars. Her lawyers and family have described her as increasingly anxious as she awaits a verdict. The appeals case continues Monday, when a

lawyer representing the Kercher family will make his closing arguments. The lawyer of a man who was implicated in the murder by Knox — and was briefly jailed as a result of her statement — is also expected to address the appeals court in Perugia. □

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Pakistanis meet after US criticism

SEBASTIAN ABBOT

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's army chief convened a special meeting of senior commanders Sunday following U.S. allegations that the military's spy agency helped militants attack American targets in Afghanistan, the army said.

The government also summoned home the country's foreign minister early from a trip to the United States to attend a meeting of all major political parties to discuss the American allegations of support for the militant Haqqani network.

Senior Pakistani officials have lashed out against the allegations, accusing the U.S. of trying to make Pakistan a scapegoat for its troubled war in Afghanistan. The public confrontation has plunged the already troubled U.S.-Pakistan alliance to new lows.

Pakistan's leaders have shown no indication they plan to act on renewed American demands to attack the Haqqani network in its main base in Pakistan, even at the risk of further conflict with Washington, which has given the country billions in aid.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Sunday that the U.S. should consider military action to defend U.S. troops if Pakistan's spy agency continues supporting militants who are attacking American forces.

Unilateral U.S. raids into Pakistan could have explosive implications in a country where anti-American sentiment is widespread.

Pakistanis were outraged by the covert U.S. commando raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in a garrison town not far from Islamabad in May. The U.S. did not tell the Pakistani government about the operation beforehand for fear bin Laden would be tipped off. Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik warned the U.S. on Sunday against sending troops into Pakistan. □



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Gadhafi gunmen cross border from Algeria to Libya

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Gunmen loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have crossed the Libyan border from Algeria and attacked revolutionary forces in a town near the frontier, killing six people, officials said Sunday.

The cross-border attack on Saturday shows loyalist forces have managed to escape Libya and regroup and collect arms, bolstering fears the North African nation could face a protracted insurgency.

Fighters who took up arms against Gadhafi have seized Tripoli and have gained control of the rest of the country, but they are still battling forces loyal to the ousted regime on several fronts.

Libya officials also announced on Sunday the discovery of a mass grave believed to hold the remains of 1,270 inmates killed by Gadhafi's regime in a 1996 prison massacre. The site — a desert field scattered with bone fragments — was found outside the walls of Tripoli's Abu Salim prison, where the victims were killed on June 26, 1996, after protesting conditions at the facility. A demonstration by women demanding justice for the victims of that prison massacre was one of the things that touched off the uprising against Gadhafi in February.

A Tripoli military spokesman, Khalid al-Sharif, said authorities found the site after getting information from witnesses and former security guards who had been captured after the capital fell. Officials will ask for international assistance in excavating and identifying the remains because the Libyans don't have sufficient expertise and equipment to test

the DNA, he said.

Libyans are eager for those who committed crimes under the old regime to face justice and have been moving forward with efforts to account for the past even as fighting continues in parts of the country.

Col. Ahmed Bani, a military spokesman for the transitional government, said the attack on Ghadamis occurred Saturday but revolutionary forces had intelligence that cars filled with weapons had crossed the border a few days earlier. Ghadamis is about 280 miles (450 kilometers) southwest of Tripoli.

He said the loyalist forces were believed to belong to a unit that had been un-



Civilians celebrate atop a revolutionary forces tank near Sirte, Libya, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. Gunmen loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have crossed the Libyan border from Algeria and attacked revolutionary forces in a town near the frontier, killing six people, officials said Sunday.

(AP Photo/Manu Brabo)

der the command of Gadhafi's son Khamis, who was reportedly killed in fighting before the revolutionary forces seized Tripoli.

Bani said revolutionary forces had repelled the attack but the assailants escaped back across the border.

An official from Ghadamis, Ali al-Mana, however, said fighting was ongoing. He told The Associated Press that six people had been killed and 63 wounded.

"We are sending a plane from Tripoli to evacuate the wounded," said al-Mana, who is the Ghadamis representative on the National Transitional Council, which is acting as the country's government. Al-Mana said Ghadamis has a small runway for the plane to land. □

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Pope in Germany urges spiritual renewal

JUERGEN BAETZ
VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press

FREIBURG, Germany (AP) —

Pope Benedict XVI issued a strong call for spiritual renewal among Germans, as he wrapped up a visit to his homeland in which he addressed parliament and met with victims of clerical abuse.

The pope drew hundreds of thousands of German faithful to services held on stops during his trip, including a final Mass early Sunday that attracted about 100,000 people to an airfield beside Freiburg's airport.

In his parting words before leaving for Rome late Sunday, Benedict wished Germans "strength and confidence" in their faith, underlining a message repeated at each stop of his four-day



Pope Benedict XVI looks up before he leaves Germany at the airport in Lahr, north of Freiburg, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. Pope Benedict XVI was on a four-day official visit to his homeland Germany.

(AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

former East Germany. He stressed the need for Roman Catholics to show unity with Rome, which he said has no intention of bowing to groups demanding changes in the church's teaching. □

British police: 6 arrested on terror charges



Police guard a house in Asquith Rd, Ward End, Birmingham, England following the arrest of six men in Birmingham as part of a large intelligence-led counter-terrorism operation. The men were detained at or near their homes overnight on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism in Britain. A spokeswoman for West Midlands Police said the men, aged between 25 and 32, were taken into custody by unarmed officers in the Moseley, Sparkbrook, Sparkhill, Ward End and Balsall Heath areas of Birmingham.

(AP Photo/David Jones/PA)

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LONDON (AP) — Six men have been charged with involvement in a terror bomb plot, police announced on Sunday.

The arrests of the six Birmingham area men were part of a "major operation" by the West Midlands counterterrorism unit, the West Midlands police department said.

Four men have been charged with preparing for an act of terrorism, and two more with failing to disclose information, the police said. One of those two was also charged with terrorist fundraising.

All six, who are aged between 25 and 32, will appear at West London Magistrates Court on Monday. □



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Jamaica's PM will step down

DAVID MCFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica's governing party announced Sunday that Prime Minister Bruce Golding will step down as leader in the coming weeks, possibly averting a rebellion from ruling party members that could have led to his ouster.

Golding will resign once a new leader of the Jamaica Labor Party is elected. The party's leader automatically becomes the prime minister.

The announcement was made in a brief statement from the party, which said Golding informed its central executive committee of his decision at a quarterly meeting in the capital of Kingston. The 63-year-old Golding is a veteran lawmaker who was expected to lead his party into the 2012 general elections.

"(Golding) said the challenges of the last four years have taken their toll and it was appropriate now to make way for new leadership to continue the programmes of economic recovery and transformation while mobilizing the party for victory in the next general elections," the party statement said.

Dennis Meadows, a senator and member of the Jamaica Labor Party's executive committee, said there has been an "overwhelming response" for Golding to stay on as party leader.

"He feels the chances of the party winning the next elections are at a disadvantage with him at the head, but there's no questioning of his competence," Meadows said.

Education Minister Andrew Holness, also from the Labor Party, dominated a poll conducted earlier this year asking islanders who should lead the Caribbean country if Golding were to step down.

Golding's career has been in jeopardy since 2009 because of his handling of the extradition of Jamaican drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke to the United States. Critics have slammed Golding for allowing the contracting of a law firm to lobby Washington to drop their request for extradition.

Golding resisted Coke's extradition for nine months, arguing the U.S. indictment on gun and drug trafficking charges relied on illegal wiretap evidence. Golding's Parliament district included Coke's West Kingston slum stronghold. The stance strained relations with Washington, which questioned Jamaica's reliability as an ally in the fight against drug trafficking.

When Golding finally agreed to send Coke to the U.S., a hunt for the fugitive led to days of fighting in May 2010 that killed at least 73 civilians and three security officers. Coke was captured about a month later and extradited.

Last month, Coke pleaded guilty to racketeering and assault charges, admitting his leadership of the brutal Shower Posse gang. He is due to be sentenced in December. The Coke controversy prompted Golding to offer his resignation last year, but it was rejected by his party. □

Turkish premier signals joint operation with Iran

SELCAN HACAOGLU

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Turkey's prime minister on Sunday signaled a joint military offensive with Iran against their common enemy: Kurdish rebels based in northern Iraq. Turkey and Iran were working together and "determined," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "There is no question of any postponement," Erdogan said in a clear reference to a possible joint military operation against the main Kurdish rebel base on Qandil Mountain which sits on the Iraqi-Iranian border deep inside northern Iraq.

"I regret to say this but there will be a price for it," Erdogan said, apparently referring to possible military losses in a cross-border offensive against the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has been waging a war for autonomy in Turkey's southeast.

It was not immediately clear if the two countries are planning a highly risky and difficult ground offensive at Qandil, which has reportedly been turned into a mine field by the rebels to protect themselves.

The Party of Free Life of Kurdistan, or PEJAK, which is an offshoot of the PKK that the U.S. and the European Union have labeled a terrorist group, is also struggling for autonomy for Iran's Kurds because of alleged Tehran government discrimination. Kurds make up 14 percent of Iran's population. Iranian artillery units often fire salvos at Qandil, and Turkish warplanes stage bombing raids against suspected rebel bases there, but the rebels reportedly rush into deep



In this photo provided by the United Nations, U.S. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, right, greets Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip at United Nations headquarters.

(AP Photo/United Nations, Eskinder Debebe)

caves when they hear the whistling shells or the roar of the jets. The Kurdish provinces of northern Iraq are the country's most stable and prosperous area. But to neighboring Iran and Turkey, both with large Kurdish minorities, they are

something else: an inspiration and a support base for the Kurdish rebels in their own countries. Turkey has already been pressing the U.S.-backed Iraqi government to clamp down on Kurdish guerrillas who use Iraq as a base. □

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THE LION KING

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matinee: 12:30 - 2:45

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matinee: 12:45 - 3:00

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For All of your Sporting Needs

Hearst and HGTV enter a new magazine in a murky market

JEREMY W. PETERS

© 2011 New York Times

With the economy sputtering, throw pillows and wicker baskets may not be at the top of many Americans' shopping lists. Nor perhaps is a glossy magazine about where to buy them and how to make them pop against your freshly painted pale avocado walls.

Yet Hearst Magazines is betting that there are enough people out there looking for just that kind of advice, presented in a sensible – and recession-friendly – manner.

Hearst and HGTV have become partners in a new magazine – called simply enough, HGTV Magazine – that will make its debut on newsstands at the beginning of October. It is one of the only major consumer magazines brought to market in the last few years, and the first since 2008 from one of the country's top three magazine publishers, which all shed jobs and closed publications during the last recession.

"If you try to time the market, maybe on occasion you'll get lucky," said David Carey, president of Hearst Magazines. "But that's a very difficult thing to do. We operate our business in good times and bad."

In fact, when it comes to starting a magazine, you might say Hearst has a knack for pretty lousy timing.

SmartMoney, which it started with Dow Jones in 1992, hit newsstands in the thick

of the early 1990s economic slump. The Food Network Magazine was introduced at the end of 2008, when the economy and stock market were in free fall, and the publishing world was in retreat.

For the record, both are still in business and doing quite well. Dow Jones bought out Hearst's half of SmartMon-

rate base next year to 1.4 million from 1.3 million.

Very much mindful that lightning may not strike twice, Hearst is forgoing the route of a traditional introduction for HGTV Magazine. Instead, it is careful to describe the rollout as a test – not an official debut – and has committed to only two issues.

and is not so aspirational that it is out of reach.

"Despite economic pressure, I think there's great advertising and marketing opportunities for many clients," said Robin Steinberg, an executive vice president for MediaVest, a leading ad buyer.

Hearst has been successful before in taking a popular

marking success against properties like Oprah and the Food Network," she added. "Is HGTV popular enough to deliver the same consumer demand and scale? Scale isn't necessarily everything, but it's something." The challenge in convincing advertisers to sign on once the test phase is complete is something Hearst acknowledges will take some doing.

"I think advertisers want a little more facts behind things before you launch," said Michael Clinton, Hearst's marketing president and publishing director. "I think that's changed over the last few years. In the go-go years of the early 2000s, a lot of advertisers would take a lot of fliers on a lot of new things. Now in a postrecessionary world, they scrutinize their budgets a lot more."

Television ratings suggest that HGTV's scale could work in the new magazine's favor. When the Food Network Magazine came out in November 2008, an average of 930,000 viewers were tuning in each night during prime time, according to Nielsen. HGTV attracts an average of 1.3 viewers now, many of whom have probably seen HGTV Magazine promotions during programs like "House Hunters" and "Design Star." Though the magazine contains many elements of HGTV programming, it consists primarily of original features that span the entirety of domestic life – from fruit-washing to family feuds. □



Sara Peterson, editor in chief of HGTV Magazine, stands on a ladder while leading a meeting at the company's offices in New York. Hearst Magazines and HGTV are partners in the new magazine, which makes its debut on newsstands at the beginning of October.

(Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times)

ey last year. And the Food Network Magazine is one of the strongest-performing magazines in the business today, with ad pages and newsstand sales on the rise. It is now the third best-selling magazine by single copies for Hearst, behind only Cosmopolitan and O, The Oprah Magazine. Hearst will raise the magazine's

The company said it was seeing encouraging signs. About 24,000 people have subscribed at a price of \$15. And while advertisers in the first issue were given space free, some appear to be on board with Hearst's pitch that it has identified a new magazine category – something that offers tips for both home and lifestyle

television brand like Oprah and Food Network and translating it into a magazine. Such joint ventures are a staple of the company's growth strategy, allowing it to split costs and share in the profits. But whether that success can be replicated with HGTV, Steinberg said, remains to be seen.

"The challenge is bench-

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Explosion of music filled the air this weekend



PIEDRA PLAT – Last Thursday night, Michael Bolton headlined the Aruba Music Explosion with a double set in the Piedra Plat Festival Grounds. On Friday, the

popular Latin Artists Gilberto Santa Rosa and Olga Tanon impressed the full house with their fabulous performances. Saturday's final performance featured



Luis Fonsi, Felipe Peleaz and Servando & Florintino, the handsome balladeer Fonsi is a multi-threat award winner who writes and produces most of his work, and is a music idol to Latin people around the world. Felipe is one of the most popular performers to come out of Colombia. Servando and Florintino are the sons of an icon of the Venezuelan music industry, Ali Primera, also known as "The Voice of Venezuela". Press members from all around the world covered this fantastic event and everyone is on edge to hear who will perform in next year's lineup. □



Happy Birthday Elizabeth Brosnihan



PALM BEACH – The birthday of Elizabeth Brosnihan, from Leicester Massachusetts, was celebrated in grand style at the Plaza Club, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, as she received a beautiful cake, hugs and

kisses from her resort family members: Silvio, Rudy & Tasha. It was actually a double celebration as Elizabeth also received a special honoring from the Aruba Tourism Authority, for traveling to

Aruba since 1985, for twenty-six consecutive years!! Marouska Heyliger, representing the tourism authority thanked Elizabeth for her support of the people and their island and wished her a happy 75th, on her most



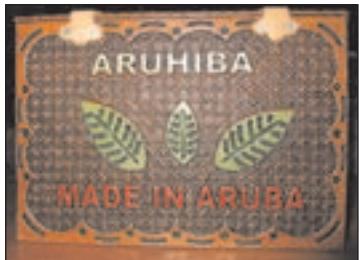
favorite place on earth. Elizabeth reports that the wonderful people of Aruba, the beautiful beaches, the perfect weather, the superb dining and the total relaxation she always finds, have been bringing her back all these years and she vowed to continue to travel for the next 75 years! □



Aruhība, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhība". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhība Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhība". Petrocchi considers Aruhība a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhība Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhība is only available in above mentioned stores.

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Johnson's Enterprises hosts a new logo & web site launch

ORANJESTAD - Johnson's enterprises one of Aruba oldest and most well-established family-owned businesses hosted a lovely sunset cocktail party at the Surfside Marina in honor of its new logo and website launch. The party was hosted by Yvonne Johnson, Director-Owner, and both her adult children, Ian Lejuez, Operations Manager and Stephanie Lejuez, Manager. While the family welcomed their guests warmly, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served on the al fresco terrace, then Stephanie addressed the audience in a very charming and charismatic style sharing a power-point presentation and interesting notes and anecdotes, focusing on the company's history. Johnson's Enterprises, she shared, was established by grandparents Ambrose and Esmey Johnson, 37 years, and 9 days ago. It all started with Hitler and Stalin, she recounted with a smile on her face, and she was not referring to the notorious German and Russian despots but to her grandfather's donkeys, the company's first means of transportation. Grandpa Ambrose transported goods with the help of his donkeys on the island of Saba, earning a small but stable income. Then both grandparents immigrated to Aruba in search of economic opportunity. Ambrose worked for the refinery for many years, and thanks to his entrepreneurial spirit, also operated a private vessel, and a chicken farm, hence his nickname, Chicken Johnson. Grandma Esmey ran her own liquor & grocery shop, and always helped grandfather in any of his many business ventures. In 1966, the grandparents launched Antilles Light, purchasing 5 pieces of heavy equipment from the refinery. Uncle Stuart and Aunt Barbara pitched in to provide some additional management. They eventually spun off to create their own successful ventures, namely Star Enterprises and Stu Import-Export in the USA. The company's first contract was a demolition site at the colony, and Yvonne, the current Director-Owner of the company helped out her parents on that project by salvaging the floor tiles. Grandpa was a firm believer in recycling, and he came up with the idea to sell the tiles instead of breaking them. Yvonne fondly remembers the blisters which taught her about finding extra business opportunities, every step of the way. JohnsonEnterprises survived the shutdown of the refinery in 1985, remaining open and successful to this day. Yvonne, has been the sole owner since 2009 and Ian and Stephanie look forward to becoming the 3rd generation owners someday, maintaining the companies course for many generations to come. The new logo, builds on the original one, which was designed by grandpa who borrowed the shape of the Chevron insignia and the colors of the Dutch flag. The current logo strongly relies on grandpa's creation. It was conceived



by Greg Carvalhal of CaribMedia, who delivered a contemporary, yet industrial look, both dynamic and aesthetic, incorporating the company activities and its initials. The new website is also a source of pride, at www.jearuba.com, describing all that the company has to offer, including a home page, a page about the diverse services

such as heavy equipment rental & transport, waste management & collection, body shop, sand and soda blast, refinery services, and a page about the company's commitment to the environment. Johnson's Enterprises N.V., is located at Byerlite z/n, Savaneta. Pictured here unforgettable party moment at the launch of the logo and website. □

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Windows on Aruba hosts a memorable Riedel Glassware Dinner



DRIJF BEACH – The dinner tables at Windows on Aruba were glimmering and shimmering with a great number of stylish and contemporary, highly polished Riedel glassware, ready to quantum leap patrons' enjoyment of wine, when poured into the properly-designed wine glass.

Executive Chef Zeilstra and Restaurant Manager Marco van der Linde did a fantastic job preparing great dishes and serving delectable wines to a group of food and wine lovers, just recently.

Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company, explains Riedel glassware is wine specific,

having created a special individual design for Pinot Noir, two different style for Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, etc., all dictated by the nose and the taste of the wine.

After attending the much enjoyed dinner and testing wines in different glasses, pa-

trons agreed that the right glass makes a huge difference.

For appetizers Beef and Mushrooms were paired with Veramonte Pinot Noir from Chile, which showed the red fruity bouquet also some unique farm notes related to the hearty ingredients. The second Scallops and Shrimp appetizer married to the Neumeyer Pinot Blanc, La Tulipe, from the French Alsace region, enhanced the elegance of the award winning wine, Wine Spectator rated year after year, as paired with the elegance of the dish.

The Halibut and Duck course paired with California Schug Winery Chardonnay, aged only partly in oak barrels, showed a nice fresh style and a crisp nose, it was tested in two different Chardonnay Riedel glasses, and one accentuated the minerality of the wine, the other its round and oaky flavors.

The Veal and Merlot combination with sweetbread was a great match with the Clos du Val -- in French a small vineyard estate -- hailing from Napa Valley California, and scoring 90 points when rated by the Wine Enthusiast. The delicate Chocolate and Lemon dessert was matched with the Quady Elysium, borrowed from a Greek expression, and translated as sweet heaven!

Dinner at Windows on Aruba was applauded by guests who interacted playfully with their wine glasses and their plates, sampling different styles of glassware under the direction of Kent Lewis, representing Riedel glassware with 54 designs to choose from.

The power of each properly-designed wine glass, he states, is overwhelming, choose the right glass and your enjoyment of wine will quadruple!

Pictured here the happy affair at Windows on Aruba. □





Nyad quits Florida-to-Cuba swim

U.S. swimmer Diana Nyad stands on a scale to record her weight before her planned swim from Cuba to Florida at the Hemingway Marina in Havana, Cuba, Friday Sept. 23, 2011. Endurance athlete Nyad will attempt for a second time to swim from Cuba to Florida in hopes of setting a world record at the age of 62. The Los Angeles woman fell short in a previous attempt at the swim last month, calling it off after 29 hours in the water and about halfway through the 103-mile journey.

Associated Press
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NFL Roundup



Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick, left, shows his hand to New York Giants' Eli Manning after an NFL football game on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, in Philadelphia. Vick left with a broken right hand in the fourth quarter and New York won 29-16.

Associated Press

Manning leads Giants over Eagles 29-16

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eli Manning threw four touchdown passes, including two to Victor Cruz, as the New York Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles 29-16 after Michael Vick left the game again Sunday.

Vick started despite suffering a concussion in last week's 35-31 loss at Atlanta.

He left with a broken right hand in the fourth quarter after helping the Eagles overcome a 14-0 first-quarter deficit to take a 16-14 lead. It's uncertain how long Vick will be out.

Without their Pro Bowl quarterback, the Eagles (1-2) hardly look like the "Dream Team" that entered the season with Super Bowl or bust expectations.

Continued on Page 21



Bill Haas celebrates winning the FedEx Cup and the Tour Championship golf tournament on the third playoff hole over Hunter Mahan at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Associated Press
Page 22

Europe beats United States to win Solheim Cup

BRIAN KEOGH

Associated Press

DUNSANY, Ireland (AP) —

Europe won the Solheim Cup for the first time since 2003 on Sunday, finishing powerfully to beat the United States 15-13 at Killeen Castle.

Norway's Suzann Pettersen turned the momentum Europe's way when she recovered from 1 down with birdies at the last three holes to beat Michelle Wie by one hole.

Her win left Europe needing just one point from the last two singles to win the trophy but the side captained by Alison Nicholas did even better.

Caroline Hedwall of the Netherlands — 2 down with two holes to play — earned a crucial halved match to give Europe a 14-13 lead when rookie Ryann O'Toole bogeyed the 17th and 18th.

Spain's Azahara Munoz birdied the 17th in the final



Europe's Suzann Pettersen reacts on hole sixteen after holing a putt against the U.S. in the Singles match on day three of the Solheim Cup golf tournament at Killeen Castle, Dunsany, Ireland, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

singles to go 1 up on Angela Stanford and guarantee Europe's victory before closing out a one hole win

at the last.

"I've been in agony all day," European captain Alison Nicholas said. "The players have had such heart and passion and purpose. I hand it all to them. They've been unbelievable."

Nicholas said Europe's win was the greatest achievement of her career. "They were so up for it and they believed in themselves," she said. "They just fought to the end. The rookies have done fantastic. The experienced players have done really well as well. It's just been a real team effort."

American captain Rosie Jones also praised her players.

"They fought so hard and really came together in the last couple of days to do so well, and it's just really hard," Jones said.

Jones declined to blame O'Toole for the defeat.

"You know what, she

played awesome," Jones said. "She's undefeated in her first Solheim Cup. That is just unbelievable ... She feels bad because she was 2 up coming in."

"But I tell you what, she got three points this week, and I don't know if anybody else did that. So that's pretty awesome."

Play was suspended three times during the day due to adverse weather conditions but the 28,000 strong crowd saw an exciting finish.

The sides were tied 8-8 entering Sunday's 12 singles matches but Europe won the session 7-5 with

American Cristie Kerr forced to forfeit her match with Karen Stupples.

Kerr, who was set to play in the 12th singles match, was unable to start due to a wrist injury.

"I'm devastated that I couldn't play today to help represent my team," Kerr said. "I tried my best

but I couldn't hold the golf club."

The home side raced 11-8 ahead when Catriona Matthew soundly defeated Paula Creamer 6 and 5 and Sophie Gustafson beat Stacy Lewis by two holes.

The Americans hit back when Morgan Pressel beat Anna Nordqvist 2 and 1 and Brittany Lang defeated Sandra Gall 6 and 5.

Veteran Juli Inkster gave the U.S. hope when she won the 18th with a par four to snatch a halved match with Laura Davies before Christina Kim beat Swede Maria Hjorth 4 and 2 to level the scores.

Two hole wins for Europe's Christel Boeljon over Brittany Lincicome and American Vicki Hurst over Melissa Reid left the match riding on the last three singles. With Stanford and Munoz all square in the final

singles, the game between Pettersen and Wie became crucial. □



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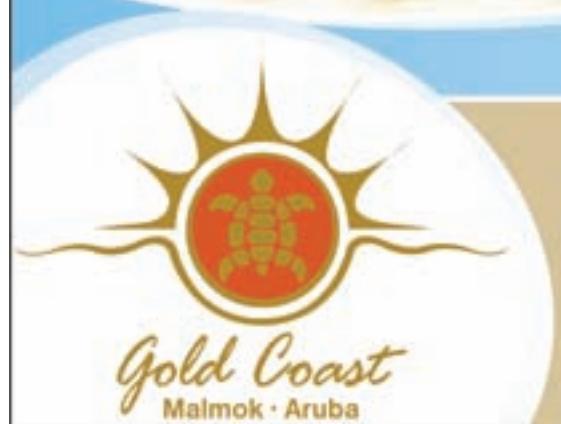
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Tony Stewart wins at New Hampshire Motor Speedway

DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

LOUDON, New Hampshire (AP) —

Tony Stewart made it two wins from two in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, pulling ahead when Clint Bowyer ran out of gas with two laps left to win at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday.

Stewart is on a roll when the season matters most, following last week's Chase opening victory at Chicagoland Speedway with another strong performance at New Hampshire.

Both of his victories this season have come in the Chase and have propelled him to the top of the points standings.

The outcome was a complete reversal of the race at New Hampshire last year, when Stewart's tank ran dry a lap from the checkered flag and Bowyer pounced for the victory.

"If that's not a flip-flop from last year, I don't know what is," Stewart said over the radio as he neared the finish line.

Four other Chase drivers finished in the top 10. Brad Keselowski was second, Jeff Gordon was fourth, Matt

Kenseth was sixth and Carl Edwards finished eighth. Gordon rocketed from 11th to sixth in the standings and is in the hunt for his fifth championship.

Stewart, a two-time Cup champion, is the second driver to ever open the Chase with consecutive victories.

He overtook Kevin Harvick for the points lead and made himself the car to beat after a rather pedestrian regular season. Even Stewart counted himself out him before the Chase, declaring he would call himself, "a total bumbling idiot," if he won the championship.

He might win his third title — but don't expect Smoke to call himself a favorite. "Got eight long weeks still, man," Stewart said. "It's way too early to start counting chickens."

It's not too early to start counting some out. Denny Hamlin, who entered in 12th and a whopping 41 points out, finished 29th and was the worst Chase finisher.

A year after he went into the finale with the points lead, Hamlin's shot at his first championship is over. While the nine drivers be-

hind Stewart range from seven to 29 points down, Hamlin is 66 points back and 32 out of 11th.

Other Chase driver results saw Kyle Busch finish 11th; Harvick 12th; Dale Earnhardt Jr. 17th; Jimmie Johnson 18th; Kurt Busch 22nd; and Ryan Newman 25th.

Fuel mileage was a deciding factor in the Chase opener with several contenders falling away when they ran out of fuel. Bowyer, still looking for at least one victory this season before he leaves Richard Childress Racing, seemingly had this one until the very end. He wound up 26th.

Stewart couldn't believe his good fortune a year after the same problem derailed his shot at a victory.

"I know exactly what that feels like," Stewart said. "I know exactly how he feels right now. I saw him slowing down the back and I thought, 'Oh, no, you're kidding me. That's not the way you want to win it.'" Greg Biffle, the only other driver to open the Chase with two straight wins, was third. Brian Vickers was fifth. Round 3 of the Chase is next week at Dover International Speedway.



Tony Stewart celebrates with his crew in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, in Loudon, N.H.

Associated Press

Stewart's win last season snapped a 32-race losing streak and helped Stewart-Haas Racing take the checkered flag for the second time this season. Newman and Stewart finished 1-2 at New Hampshire in July.

Stewart had called this season a "miserable year" before getting hot in the final two races before the Chase. He was third at Atlanta and seventh at Richmond — just a little sneak preview of what was to come in a Chase he has absolutely owned.

Stewart was cryptic about the turnaround after he got out of the No. 14 Chevrolet at New Hampshire.

"We got rid of some dead weight earlier this week, so, it's made it a lot easier. It's been a big weight lifted off our shoulders," he said, without explanation. "Sometimes you've got to make adjustments in your life, and we did that, and it's definitely helped this weekend for sure. These guys have never quit, man, these guys have never given up, and we've got a shot at this thing." □

Haas wins high-stakes FedEx Cup in a playoff

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Bill Haas made a stunning par save from shallow water on his way to winning the high-stakes FedEx Cup on Sunday in the most riveting conclusion of the PGA Tour's playoff.

With his ball half-submerged on the bank of a lake, Haas blasted out of the water to about 3 feet to save par on the second playoff hole against Hunter Mahan, then got up-and-down for par on the 18th green to win the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup.

Haas won a combined \$11.44 million — including \$10 million for capturing the FedEx Cup.

"It was all or nothing," Haas said of his shot from the water left of the 17th green. Mahan had to settle for \$864,000 for his runner-up finish, and \$700,000 for finishing seventh in the FedEx



Bill Haas holds the FedEx Cup and the Tour Championship trophy after defeating Hunter Mahan in three playoff holes at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

Cup. The difference between winning and losing was \$9.876 million.

Haas won for the first time this year, and the payoff could be more than just a massive bank deposit. Fred Couples makes his final captain's pick on Tuesday

for the Presidents Cup, and Haas put on quite a show. Even if Couples wasn't watching, his assistant captain had a great view: Jay Haas, Bill's father, was in the gallery at East Lake, and raised his arms as his 29-year-old son delivered

the most riveting conclusion in the five-year history of the FedEx Cup.

"I'm proud of him the way he came back," Jay Haas said.

Only a week ago, Haas was poised to make the Presidents Cup on his own

until a 42 on the back nine at Cog Hill. He was atop the leaderboard Saturday at East Lake until a bogey-double bogey finish.

And he almost let it get away from him again. Haas had a three-shot lead when he walked off the 15th green, only to make bogey from the trees on the 16th and bogey from the gallery on the 18th for a 2-under 68.

Mahan had to make par on the 232-yard closing hole. He hit a clutch chip — the biggest weakness in his game — and holed a 5-foot par putt for a 71 to join Haas in the high-stakes playoff.

They returned to the par-3 18th and the pressure was obvious with so much money at stake. Haas hit his shot well right, into the gallery for the third straight time, then hit a tough chip to 10 feet. Mahan went in the bunker and blasted out to 6 feet. □



Dustin Johnson, right, talks with his caddie Joe LaCava on the second tee during the final round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tiger Woods has hired Joe LaCava to be his third full-time caddie. The Associated Press learned Sunday.

Two people aware of the deal said LaCava decided to leave Dustin Johnson, one of the most talented

young Americans, to go to work for the former world No. 1 who hasn't won in the last two years.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because neither Woods nor Johnson have spoken publicly about the hiring.

David Winkle, Johnson's agent at Ham-

Tiger Woods to hire Dustin Johnson's caddie

brick Sports Management, confirmed LaCava was going to work for Woods and a search for a new caddie would begin immediately. "Needless to say, Dustin and I were completely surprised, as they have enjoyed a great relationship and have been very successful together," Winkle said.

"Nonetheless, we think highly of Joe, both as a caddie and a person, which is why he was hired in the first place. We wish him nothing but the best with his new employer."

LaCava was the longtime caddie for Fred Couples, a relationship that ended in the summer because Johnson was looking for a caddie and Couples' playing schedule was being reduced because of his health.

Woods fired Steve Williams after nearly 13 years this summer after Williams worked for Adam Scott

while Woods was recovering from a knee injury. One person said LaCava informed Johnson of his decision after the final round of the Tour Championship. LaCava was flying home and could not be immediately reached. Johnson left for a corporate photo shoot in Georgia, and then was headed for Scotland for the Dunhill Links Championship.

LaCava waited for him at his courtesy car to load up his clubs, and their farewell in the parking lot was routine. Johnson had planned to take a couple of friends to Scotland to caddie for him and his brother, Austin, his amateur partner.

Johnson won The Barclays last month with LaCava on the bag, and the news was a surprise. However, LaCava has two children, ages 12 and 14, and as long as he has been a caddie, wants to be spending more time at home. Johnson also

is leaning toward taking up European Tour membership next year, which would mean about four additional tournaments overseas.

Woods, even when fully healthy, plays a limited schedule.

The question is whether Woods can make this a profitable move for LaCava. Woods hasn't won in more than two years on the PGA Tour, and he did not qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs this year, mainly because he missed nearly four months with an injury. Woods has said his left leg is stronger than it has been in years. Woods next plays at the Frys.com Open in two weeks at CordeValle, about an hour south of San Francisco. Woods also is playing the Australian Open and the Presidents Cup, a competition that will feature all of his caddies — Mike Cowan (now with Jim Furyk) and Williams, who works for Scott. □



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NFL Roundup

Continued from Page 17

Bills 34, Patriots 31

At Orchard Park, New York, Rian Lindell hit a 28-yard field goal as time expired as Buffalo snapped a 15-game losing streak against New England and lifted its record to 3-0.

Buffalo was in dramatic fashion, overcoming a 21-0 second-quarter deficit.

It's the second straight week the Bills rallied; they overcame a 21-3 deficit in a 38-35 win over Oakland last week. Ryan Fitzpatrick went 27 of 40 for 369 yards with two TDs as Buffalo beat its AFC East rival for the first time since the 2003 opener. It was the third-longest losing streak against one opponent in NFL history.

Tom Brady went 30 of 45 for 386 yards and four scores for New England (2-1).

Lions 26, Vikings 23, OT

At Minneapolis, Matthew Stafford threw for 378 yards and two touchdowns to rally Detroit Lions from a 20-0 halftime deficit, and



Buffalo Bills' Rian Lindell (9) kicks the game-winning field goal against the New England Patriots during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y., Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011. The Bills won 34-31.

Associated Press

Jason Hanson kicked a 32-yard field goal in overtime. Calvin Johnson had seven catches for 108 yards and two TDs for the Lions — 3-0 for the first time since 1980.

They won in the Metrodome for the first time since 1997, snapping a 13-game skid.

Packers 27, Bears 17

At Chicago, Aaron Rodgers threw for 297 yards and three touchdowns to Jermichael Finley, as Green Bay shut down Jay Cutler.

The stakes weren't as high as the previous meeting, when the Packers left Soldier Field celebrating the NFC title on the way to the championship. Even so, they gave the Bears (1-2) more headaches.

Rodgers led the charge, completing 28 of 38 passes. Buccaneers 16, Falcons 13

At Tampa, Florida, Josh Freeman scored the first rushing touchdown of his career and Tampa Bay's defense forced three turnovers and sacked Matt Ryan four times.

The normally unflappable Freeman did a little bird dance in celebration of his quarterback sneak that snapped a 3-3 tie in the second quarter, and the Bucs (2-1) went on to end a five-game losing streak in the series between NFC South rivals.

Saints 40, Texans 33

At New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 370 yards and three touchdowns, and twice led New Orleans back from fourth-quarter deficits. Mark Ingram's first career touchdown on a

13-yard run gave the Saints (2-1) the lead for good with under 3 minutes left.

Panthers 16, Jaguars 10

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Cam Newton didn't pass for too many of yards, he simply found Greg Olsen over the middle for a 16-yard touchdown with 4:20 left to list Carolina (1-2).

Newton, the No. 1 overall draft pick, also found Olsen for the ensuing 2-point conversion that helped Carolina rally from a 10-5 halftime deficit. The win also marked the first for coach Ron Rivera with the Panthers.

Titans 17, Broncos 14

At Nashville, Tennessee, Matt Hasselbeck threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Daniel Graham with 4:24 left to completed Tennessee's rally. The Titans (2-1) lost Kenny Britt, the AFC's leading receiver, when his right knee buckled in the second quarter. Hasselbeck turned to others, including Graham, whose first catch of the season came against his former team. Hasselbeck threw for 311 yards and two TDs. □

LSU is new No. 1 in AP Top 25, OU No. 2

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
Another decisive victory away from home pushed LSU to No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll for the first time since 2007.

The Tigers bumped Oklahoma from the top spot Sunday after winning 47-21 at West Virginia the night before. The Sooners had been No. 1 since the preseason. They stayed unbeaten with a 38-28 victory at home against Missouri.

LSU received 42 first-place votes from the 60-member media panel and 1,471 points. Oklahoma received 12 first-place votes and 1,422 points.

Last week, Oklahoma had 37 first-place votes and LSU had 14. No. 3 Alabama received five first-place votes and No. 4 Boise State had one.

Oklahoma State jumped two spots to No. 5 after winning at Texas A&M. In the USA Today coaches' poll, Oklahoma is still No. 1, with LSU and Alabama tied for second.

The Tigers haven't been No. 1 since winning the national championship in 2007. The Tigers held the top ranking for four weeks during the regular season that year. LSU (4-0) added the victory against West Virginia to wins over Oregon at Dallas Cowboys Stadium and at

Mississippi State.

"The Tigers just didn't just beat these teams. They dominated two of the three (Oregon, West Virginia) without even trying run up the score," said Ron Higgins of The Commercial Appeal in Memphis.

All three were ranked at the time the Tigers played them.

"We have a real strong road personality," LSU coach Les Miles said. "I think there's some real confidence for this football team that no matter what the environment is, you know, we can play."

Oklahoma certainly hasn't struggled, with wins against Tulsa, at Florida State and

Missouri.

Though Sooners linebacker Travis Lewis sort of predicted the demotion Saturday night after the Missouri game.

"We played like a 25th-, 30th-ranked team," he said. "We are not the No. 1 ranked team in the nation right now."

Losing the top spot in the polls after a victory isn't uncommon. It happened once last season and twice the season before.

For now, the Tigers' resume' has swayed voters.

The schedule doesn't let up much for LSU, though the Tigers do play at home the next two weeks against Kentucky (2-2) and No. 12

Florida (4-0).

No. 6 is Stanford, followed by Wisconsin and Nebraska. The seventh-ranked Badgers will welcome the eight-ranked Cornhuskers to the Big Ten on Saturday in Madison, as Nebraska plays its first game in its new conference.

Oregon is No. 9 and South Carolina is 10th.

No. 11 Virginia Tech hosts No. 13 Clemson in the Atlantic Coast Conference's biggest game of the upcoming. The Tigers moved up eight spots after beating Florida State 35-30 in Death Valley. The Seminoles slipped 12 spots to No. 23 after its second consecutive loss. □

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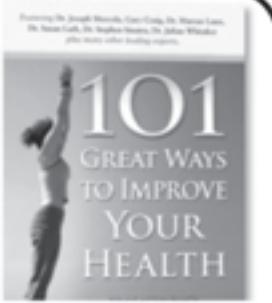
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Diana Nyad: Ending swim was 'huge disappointment'

KELLI KENNEDY

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Marathon swimmer Diana Nyad spent more than 40 hours in the shark-filled waters between Cuba and the Florida Keys, climbing into a boat only to be treated for searing welts left by Portuguese man o' war stings. Left swollen and red, Nyad had no choice but to end her trek early when medics warned another sting could be deadly.

The 62-year-old soldiered on for a time, cutting eye and mouth holes into a cap she wore over her face to protect against future stings. She surpassed 100,000 strokes, but the stings — which team members said left what looked like branding marks from the jellyfish-like creatures' tentacles — were too much of a risk.

"I trained this hard for this big dream I had for so many years, and to think these stupid little Portuguese man o' war take it down," Nyad told The Associated Press, just hours after getting out of the water. "It's a huge disappointment."

She said she was in the best shape of her life but was blinded by the stings. Late Sunday morning, she heeded the warnings of experts who told her not to continue another two days in the water.

"You go into convulsions,



U.S. swimmer Diana Nyad flashes a victory signal before jumping into the water to begin her swim from Cuba to Florida at the Hemingway Marina in Havana, Cuba, Friday Sept. 23, 2011. Endurance athlete Nyad will attempt for a second time to swim from Cuba to Florida in hopes of setting a world record at the age of 62.

Associated Press

your spine feels paralyzed. I've had kidney stones. Nothing compares to the pain," Nyad said, wearing loose bandages and rehydrating with water and juice on her boat. "It just took the life force out of me."

Her team tentatively scheduled a press conference in Key West for Monday morning.

Nyad was making her second attempt in as many months at the Cuba-Florida crossing, a lifelong dream that she first tried

as a 28-year-old back in 1978, when she swam inside a steel shark cage for about 42 hours before ending the attempt. A cageless attempt this past August fell short 29 hours in when, gasping for breath, Nyad threw in the towel after an 11-hour asthma attack she blamed on a bad reaction to a new medicine.

Australian swimmer Susie Maroney successfully swam the shark-filled waters from Cuba through the Straits and to the Florida Keys in 1997, though she used a

cage. Nyad was trying to become the first to finish it without a cage.

Earlier in her latest swim, Nyad received oxygen and a steroid shot from her doctors and was treading water while she recovered from the stings.

After that, her team said in a website update that a so-called "staged swim record" would still be valid as long as she was on the boat only for treatment and not to rest — rather than a non-stop record.

Nyad's website said she

spent the night trying to recall favorite songs and thinking upbeat thoughts while slipping through the waters under a nighttime sky bristling with stars and a sliver of a crescent moon. The swimmer faced other obstacles aside from the man o' war stings. On Saturday, handlers spotted barracudas in the area, and she got a visit from a curious Oceanic white tipped shark that was shooed off by a support diver.

Without a cage to protect her, Nyad relied on equipment surrounding her with an electrical field that is harmless but deters most sharks.

Her divers weree there to gently discourage any sharks who make it through. But not all encounters with marine life were unpleasant. Earlier in her journey, 10 pilot whales emerged in the distance ahead of the swimmer, according to one team tweet.

The Los Angeles woman regularly paused to rest and refuel on food that her assistants passed to her in the water, but without getting on the boat. To maintain her strength she ate pasta, bananas, bite-size pieces of peanut butter sandwiches, and high-calorie and high-carbohydrate drinks.

Dozens of well-wishers flocked to social media sites Sunday after Nyad climbed out of the water, calling her an inspiration.

The athlete in her is still battling disappointment, but Nyad said she's working to gain a positive perspective focusing on the camaraderie from the two-year effort.

"I can live beyond it and think of all the good that's come of it, just to live a life of passion," she said. □

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APNewsBreak: Senator says OnStar invades privacy

By MICHAEL GORMLEY

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The OnStar automobile communication service used by 6 million Americans maintains its two-way connection with a customer even after the service is discontinued, while reserving the right to sell data from that connection.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York says that's a blatant invasion of privacy and is calling on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate.

But OnStar says former customers can stop the two-way transmission, and no driving data of customers has been shared or sold.

"OnStar is attempting one of the most brazen invasions of privacy in recent memory," said Schumer, a Democrat.

"I urge OnStar to abandon. But the General Motors Corp. OnStar service says customers are thoroughly informed of the new practice.

If a customer says he or she doesn't want to have data collected after service is ended, OnStar disconnects the tracking. And although OnStar reserves the right to share or sell data on customers' speed, location, use of seat belts and other practices, a spokesman says it hasn't done so and doesn't plan to.

"We apologize for creating any confusion about our terms and conditions," said Joanne Finnor, vice president of subscriber services. "We want to make sure we are as clear with our customers as possible, but it's apparent that we have failed to do this. ..."

We will continue to be open to their suggestions and concerns."

A week ago, OnStar changed its policy and began continuing the connection for ex-customers unless they asked for it to be discontinued.

Finnor noted keeping the two-communication active for former customers could someday allow for

emergency messages to be sent even to ex-customers about severe weather or evacuations.

The open line could also allow OnStar to alert drivers about warranty information or recalls, she said.

Schumer said he isn't persuaded. He said customers shouldn't have to "opt out" of the tracking after they

end service. He accuses OnStar of actively deceiving customers.

Schumer is announcing the effort Sunday by releasing a letter to the Federal Trade Commission seeking an investigation.

OnStar charges about \$199 a year for basic service and \$299 a year for service that includes navigation aid.□



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The upside of economic worries: Lower gas prices

By JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Soaring gasoline prices are in the rearview mirror.

For the first time in months, retail gasoline prices have fallen below \$3 a gallon in places, including parts of Michigan, Missouri and Texas. And the relief is likely to spread thanks to a sharp decline in crude-oil prices. The national average for regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.51 per gallon, down from a high of \$3.98 in early May. Last week's plunge in oil prices could push the average to \$3.25 per gallon by November, analysts say.

Economist Philip Verleger equates it to "a stimulus program for consumers," leaving them more money for clothes, dinners out and movies. Over a year, a 50 cents-per-gallon drop in gasoline prices would add roughly \$70 billion to the U.S. economy.

Arthur De Villar, a 48-year-old safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration, paid \$2.96 for gasoline near his home in Manchester, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis — and he recently replaced his SUV with a four-door sedan.

With three boys at home between the ages of 11 and 14, the money De Villar saves on gas still gets spent. But it goes to the amusement park, a Cardinals baseball game or the movie theater.

"It's far better to be able to put (the money) anywhere other than in the gas tank," he says. Prices for oil, gasoline and other commodities dove last week along with world stock markets over concerns the global economy is headed for another recession. When economies slow, demand for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel falls

your bill at the gas pump goes down, but it's going down because there are worries that people won't have jobs," says James Hamilton, an economics professor at the University of California, San Diego. "The news has not been good." And gasoline prices remain historically high. Gasoline has averaged \$3.56 this

And while that may only add \$20 a month to a typical commuter's wallet, drivers say it matters.

Pat Wolf, 60, a retired information technology professional from East Lansing, Mich. responded with a "Holy Mackerel!" when he got a text from his wife Friday morning that said a station nearby was selling gas

Dodge pickup Friday night, but the tank began to overflow before he shut off the nozzle — at \$49.21. Duran plans to sock away roughly \$30 a week in gas savings.

"I'm trying not to spend a lot of it," he said. Then he excused himself: "I've got to go get my change."

Gasoline prices have always varied from state to state, but the gap now is especially big. Drivers along the coasts are paying significantly more than drivers in the middle of the country, analysts say. California drivers are paying the highest average price in the lower 48 states, at \$3.89 per gallon on Sunday. Missouri drivers are paying the least, \$3.21 per gallon, according to AAA, OPIS and Wright Express.

Differences in state taxes explain much of the gap. Another factor is that most of the oil used by refineries on the coasts comes from overseas, making it far more expensive than oil piped to refineries in the middle of the country from places such as North Dakota and Canada. The coastal refineries must compete with the growing economies of Asia for shipments of oil. Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com, says that while he expects the national average to fall to between \$3.25 and \$3.50 between now and Thanksgiving, some areas could hit \$2.50. □



In this Aug. 15, 2011 photo, a motorist pulls the nozzle out of his gas tank after fueling his car at a station in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

as drivers cut back on trips, shippers move fewer goods and vacationers stay closer to home. Oil fell to \$79.85 per barrel Friday, a drop of 9 percent for the week. Oil reached a three-year high of \$113.93 on April 29. Economists caution that gasoline savings, while welcome, won't matter much to people if the worst economic fears come to pass. "Yes it produces some relief,

year, the highest yearly average ever. Americans have cut back driving in the face of high prices, but they are likely to spend more on gasoline in 2011 than ever before — close to \$490 billion, according to Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. Kloza says the latest drop in prices will stick around through most of the fall.

for \$2.98 per gallon. Wolf said prices in the area were \$3.49 earlier in the week and he had no hope that they'd fall below \$3. "It's one other thing in the back of your mind if you are deciding whether to buy some gizmo or other," he says. Aureleano Duran, a house painter in Dallas, gave the cashier at a RaceTrac gas station \$55 to fill up his red

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Stocks may be cheap. But they can get cheaper yet

By BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Someone is about to play the fool — Wall Street analysts or investors.

For months, analysts who write reports praising or panning stocks have been saying they were cheap. Investors were unconvinced, buying one day, selling the next. Last week, they mostly sold, and stocks got cheaper yet.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose slightly Friday but closed the week down 6.4 percent, its worst showing since the depths of the financial crisis three years ago. In the broader Standard & Poor's 500, the selling pushed down all variety of stocks — sexy high techs and staid utilities, risky small companies and cash-rich big ones.

Stock prices compared to expected profits are now nearly as low as they were in March 2009, a 12-year nadir that marked the beginning of one of the greatest bull markets in history. Have investors sold too much, as they did back then?

"I'd be buying the market," says Citigroup's chief U.S. strategist Tobias Levkovich, who warned that prices were too high in the spring. Says Harris Private Bank's Jack Ablin, who sold \$6 billion or so of stock in August, "We're sharpening our pencils to figure out when to get back in."

Who's right — or who's about to play the fool — may turn on earnings, or rather, analysts' estimates of how fast they will grow. Recently, they've been cutting them for companies

in the S&P 500 as fears of another recession spread. But they're still predicting they will earn 13 percent more earnings in the three months through September than they did in the same period a year ago, according to data provider FactSet. That would mark the eighth straight quarter of double-digit gains. And for the full year, analysts say earnings will hit a record.

"You can toss (those estimates) in the garbage," says Peter Boockvar, equity strategist at brokerage Miller Tabak & Co. "Will Greece go bankrupt? What will be the extent of the global economic slowdown? I can't get that out of an analyst report."

If history is any guide, more cuts from analysts are coming.

One ominous sign: Those who changed their estimates this month chose to cut them more than six out 10 times, according to Citigroup.

Early last month, raised estimates outnumbered lowered ones by nearly the same ratio.

Analysts are easy to bash. They usually tend to far too optimistic, cheering on stocks long after they've headed down. Now they want us to believe that companies can continue making record profits in the face of falling housing prices, tightfisted consumers, sputtering U.S. growth and a European debt crisis that is pushing a crucial market for U.S. exports closer to recession.

But it's worth remembering that it's been the naysayers, the investors, and not the optimistic analysts,



A participant in a march organized by Occupy Wall Street holds up a sign Saturday Sept. 24, 2011 in New York. Marchers represented various causes both political and economic. The man did not want to give his name.

Associated Press

who've mostly been wrong lately.

At the start of the bull market, investors worried that companies couldn't generate enough profits in such an anemic economy. Then companies cut expenses to the bone, and profits soared. Investors next worried that companies wouldn't be able to sell more, and that profits were bound to fall. And then companies defied expectations again with higher revenue, much of it overseas.

In fact, if anything, analysts haven't been optimistic enough. For several quarters, nearly three out four companies have posted profits greater than analysts had estimated, FactSet says.

At Friday's close, the S&P 500 was trading at 10.6 times analyst estimates for

earnings over the next 12 months. That's low for this so-called earnings multiple, which could mean stocks are cheap. When stocks

bottomed on March 9, 2009, they were trading at 10.4 times estimated earnings. The 10-year average is 15.□



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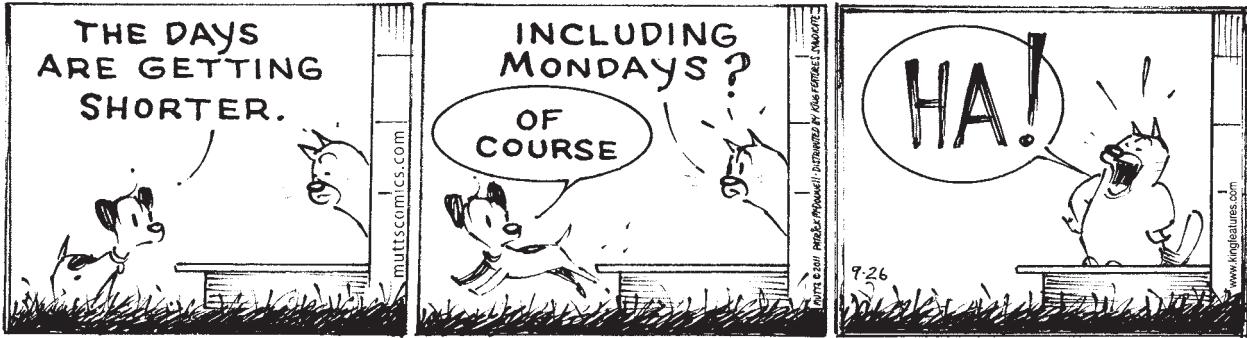
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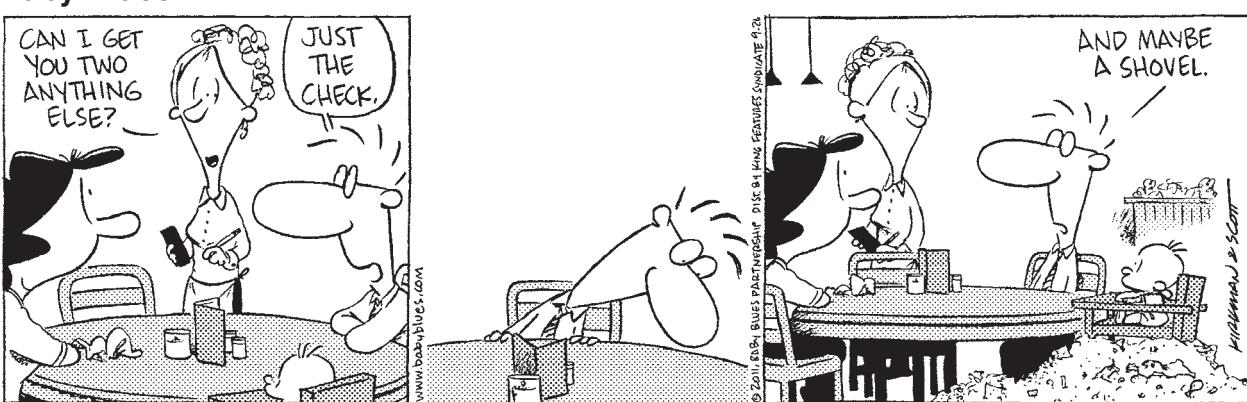
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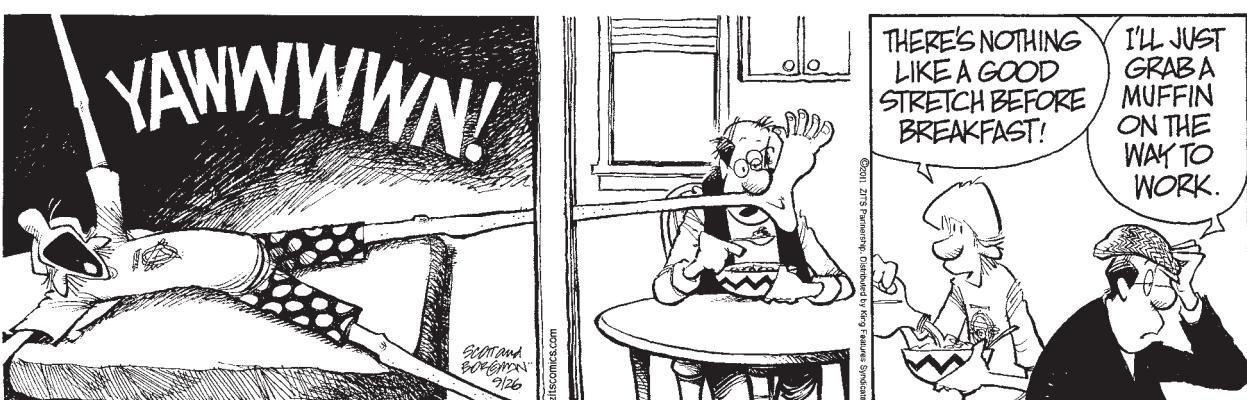
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Conceptis Sudoku

7	4		6		1	8
	8	7	2		5	
6					5	
9		5	8		6	
3		9			2	
8	2	4			3	
9					3	
	4	8	7			
4	6		5		7	2

Difficulty Level ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	4	7	8	3	1	6	5	9
8	3	6	5	2	9	1	4	7
5	9	1	7	4	6	8	2	3
7	6	3	4	1	2	9	8	5
9	5	8	3	6	7	2	1	4
1	2	4	9	5	8	7	3	6
4	8	2	6	7	5	3	9	1
3	7	9	1	8	4	5	6	2
6	1	5	2	9	3	4	7	8

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16		
17				18						19		
20			21							22		
				23					24	25		
26	27	28			29	30				31	32	33
34				35					36			
37			38						39			
40		41				42						
43		44				45						
		46				47						
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55		
56			57			58			59			
60			61			62						
63			64			65						

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/26/11

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

H	O	D	A	P	A	R	T	D	O	M	E
E	N	V	L	U	G	E	R	E	V	E	R
M	I	E	N	R	O	N	Y	P	E	A	R
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	O	S	M	O	N
M	A	N	B	I	T	S	E	M	D	S	N
S	N	O	O	T	F	A	R	A	I	D	E
C	A	M	S	S	E	N	A	T	I	B	R
O	D	E	P	O	W	O	D	R	C	A	N
T	I	G	R	I	S	A	V	E	T	S	E
T	R	A	I	L	A	G	E	H	A	D	E
V	E	R	S	E	F	I	B	E	D	E	S
A	T	L	A	S	E	S	P	O	T	A	B
S	A	I	L	S	E	A	R	E	S	A	U
P	U	R	T	I	A	R	A	C	R	A	M
S	T	A	Y	S	L	A	T	O	N	U	S

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9/26/11

39 Copy; act like
41 Cleaning cloth
42 Corncocks
44 Birds of prey
45 Draw a blank
47 Picket ___; lawn enclosure
48 Source of dietary fiber
49 Marathon
50 Dad's sister
52 Little grimace
53 Bowler's targets
54 Bolt tighteners
55 On ___; ready to bat next
59 Bashful

Today In History

Today is Monday, September 26, the 269th day of 2011. There are 96 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1580 - Francis Drake brings his ship, the Golden Hind, laden with gold and spices into Plymouth harbor, England, becoming the first captain to circumnavigate the globe.

1679 - Danes give up their claim to what is now southern Sweden by the Treaty of Lund.

1687 - Venetian artillery scores a direct hit on the Parthenon in Athens, used by the Turks as a powder magazine. The explosion seriously damages the temple.

1976 - Leaders of five black African nations decline to accept plan presented by Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith to achieve black majority rule in Rhodesia.

1980 - The Cuban government abruptly closes Mariel Harbor, ending the freedom flotilla of Cuban refugees into the United States that began the previous April.

1998 - Vladimir Meciar's party loses in Slovakian parliamentary elections, forcing a change of government in Central Europe's bastion of authoritarianism.

1999 - Explosions rip through a busy shopping area in the central Mexican city of Celaya, killing 61 people and injuring more than 300 others.

2003 - The Katsina State Sharia Court of Appeals in northern Nigeria overturns the conviction of Amina Lawal, who had been sentenced to death by stoning under Islamic law after she was accused of having a child out of wedlock.

2004 - Armed militiamen surge into a border area near a western village, where some of the first Darfur refugees attempting to return to their raided homes headed, raising further concern about how quickly 1.4 million displaced Sudanese will be able to return home.

2005 - The Irish Republican Army announces it has fully disarmed, a breakthrough verified by international



Today is Linda Hamilton's

weapons inspectors who say they watched the secret disarmament. Some hail the move as lifting the last obstacle to peace in the region, but others demand proof.

2006 - Romania and Bulgaria win clearance to join the European Union in 2008, but face some of the toughest terms ever for membership in the bloc.

2007 - Mounting pro-democracy protests against Myanmar's military government erupt into bloodshed for the first time, as security forces shoot dead at least one man and wound more in chaotic confrontations.

2008 - The list of products caught in China's tainted milk scandal grows to include baby cereal in Hong Kong and snack foods in

Japan.

2009 - Pope Benedict XVI seeks to reach out to the heavily secular people of the Czech Republic, decrying the "wounds" left by atheistic communism and urging them to rediscover their Christian roots.

2010 — President Hugo Chavez holds on to a congressional majority in Venezuela's elections, but his opponents make gains that could help them challenge his grip on power.

Today's Birthdays:

Moses Mendelssohn, German philosopher (1729-1786); Ivan Petrovich Pavlov, Russian physiologist and Nobel laureate (1849-1936); T(homas) S(tearns) Eliot, British writer and Nobel laureate (1888-1965); Martin Heidegger, German philosopher (1889-1976); Pope Paul VI (Italian Giovanni Montini) (1897-1978); George Gershwin, U.S. songwriter (1898-1937); Olivia Newton-John, British-Australian singer/actress (1948--); Linda Hamilton, U.S. actress (1956--).

**Thought For Today:
As in the physical world, so in the spiritual world, pain does not last forever — Katherine Mansfield, New Zealand-born author (1888-1923).□**

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Violence Against Women

Biologists celebrate comeback of endangered ferret



Brightside, named after a song by The Killers, sits in a display at the Ben Reifel Visitors Center at Badlands National Park in Interior, S.D. on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011. He is one of about 300 endangered black-footed ferrets kept in captivity for mating purposes. Mr. Brightside's display was part of a ferret festival at the Badlands National Park in Interior, S.D.

Associated Press

AMBER HUNT

Associated Press

INTERIOR, South Dakota

(AP) — As the cage door opened, black-footed ferret No. 7505 tentatively peeked his head out, looked

hesitantly at the prairie dog burrow offered before him, and then rushed inside, disappearing beneath the earth of western South Dakota's badlands. His freedom had been months in

The making, but in less than a minute — and three decades after his species was believed extinct — he was gone, unleashed into the wild to do what the endangered ferret does best: attack and kill prairie dogs.

"Hopefully, he's chowing down on a prairie dog now," said Paul Marinari, a fish and wildlife biologist with the National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center. The release was an invitation-only event at the Badlands National Park, attended by about two dozen ferret fanatics, to kick off a weekend of nationwide festivities celebrating the 30th anniversary of the rediscovery of a mustelid once thought extinct.

On Sept. 26, 1981, a ranch dog in Meeteetse, Wyoming, proudly presented its owners with a dead black-footed ferret. A local taxidermist identified the creature, which had been thought extinct for

several years, launching a decades-long recovery effort that has seen the ferret population grow from 18 to more than 1,000 in the wild. The ferret is still endangered, but conservationists are hopeful that by 2020, enough will be in the wild to wipe them off the list.

"We have a responsibility to restore a species that is very much a part of our North American heritage," said Kristy Bly, a wildlife biologist with the World Wildlife Fund. The recovery of the black-footed ferret — called BFFs for short — signifies the health of the grassland ecosystem, she added.

"We're committed to seeing this healthy, living prairie come back," Bly said. The ferrets' decline is intertwined with the war waged on prairie dogs by farmers. Long considered farmland pests that compete with livestock for grass, prairie dogs have been hunted and poisoned en masse

since the early 1900s. The campaign worked. But as the prairie dogs disappeared, so, too, did their predators. Larry Haverfield, a cattle rancher in Logan County, Kansas, said that loss wreaked havoc on the prairielands.

"Man poisons the prairie dogs, and that poison also kills some of the predators," he said. "You're shooting yourself in the foot."

Haverfield has allowed 7,000 acres of his 10,000-acre farm to host prairie dogs, irking his neighbors. In 2007, his land became one of just 19 recovery sites in the U.S., Canada and Mexico for the black-footed ferret, and 74 ferrets have since been released on his property. They were born in captivity, then taken to 1,600-square-foot preconditioning pens where they're taught to hunt and feast on prairie dogs. The ferrets spend at least 30 days in the environment before they're released into designated reintroduction sites.

The recovery hasn't been without hiccups: Wildlife biologists had trouble at first mating the ferrets in captivity; they mate just once a year and have small litters of kits.

Also, some swaths of the re-entry sites have been hit with canine distemper and the sylvatic plague, though newly introduced ferrets are vaccinated for both diseases.

Re-entry sites also are in Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Kansas and New Mexico. Several of the states have events scheduled throughout the weekend to celebrate the rediscovery's 30th anniversary, as do Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Washington, D.C.

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Jay-Z, Coldplay open iHeartRadio concert



Lady Gaga performs during the iHeartRadio music festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, in Las Vegas.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

CRISTINA SILVA

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jay-Z rapped about his beef with corporate radio in the monster jam "99 Problems," noting that stations won't play his hits if he doesn't do their shows. But on Friday, he played savior to radio station giant Clear Channel, headlining a two-night concert billed as the largest in radio history and a major step toward keeping the industry alive in the dot-com era.

The rapper bounced across a stage outfitted with two drum sets and two guitarists as he spit out his biggest hits and swung the two oversized gold chains hanging from his neck. It was the final performance of a night that saw confetti bombs dust the shoulders of pop sensations Kelly Clarkson, the Black Eyed Peas, Bruno Mars and Carrie Underwood. The spectacle was

scheduled to continue Saturday night, with headliners Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, Sting and Steven Tyler. The star-studded lineup usually reserved for charity concerts was a marketing blitz that drew thousands to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and was broadcast to more than 10 million radio listeners across the country.

Its intended beneficiary was iHeartRadio, Clear Channel's revamped free personalized music website that allows users to create custom radio stations and is meant to compete with the web's most popular online music services, especially Pandora. "This is our coming out party," said Bob Pittman, chairman of media and entertainment platforms for Clear Channel Communications Inc. "What makes the festival so unusual is every act is a headliner." □

Pitt's Moneyball falls short of 3-D 'Lion King'

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brad Pitt was unable to put the cat out of first place at the weekend box office.

Walt Disney's "The Lion King" reissue was No. 1 for the second-straight week-

ney plans to leave it in theaters longer than the two-week run the studio initially planned as a prelude to its Blu-ray home-video debut Oct. 4, said Dave Hollis, Disney's head of distribution. The studio has not yet decided how long or how



In this image released by Sony Pictures, Brad Pitt, left, and Jonah Hill are shown in a scene from "Moneyball."

(AP Photo/Columbia Pictures-Sony, Melinda Sue Gordon)

end with \$22.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That puts it just ahead of Pitt's baseball drama "Moneyball," a Sony Pictures release that opened at No. 2 with \$20.6 million. Debuting closely behind at No. 3 was the Warner Bros. family film "Dolphin Tale" with \$20.3 million. "Dolphin Tale" stars Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman.

The 3-D reissue of 1994's "The Lion King" has taken in \$61.7 million since opening the previous weekend to a much bigger audience than expected. That's on top of nearly \$800 million worldwide the movie made in its original run and a 2002 re-release. The film has done so well that Dis-

widely the film would play theatrically after the Blu-ray release, Hollis said.

"Consumers I think will be happy to consume it in multiple ways for this kind of franchise, as they have for the last 17 years," Hollis said.

"The Lion King" held up well despite a rush of four new wide releases this weekend.

"Twilight" co-star Taylor Lautner's action tale "Abduction" opened at No. 4 with \$11.2 million. The Lionsgate release casts Lautner as a teen hurtled into a world of espionage as he tries to uncover the mystery of his past. Another action thriller, Open Road Films' "Killer Elite," debuted at No. 5 with \$9.5 million. The movie stars Jason Statham, Robert De Niro and Clive

Owen as special-ops assassins caught up in a global revenge scheme.

"Moneyball" stars Pitt as Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane, who shook up the baseball world when his tight budget forced him to look for new ways to scout players. Jonah Hill co-stars as an economist who helps turn the A's into a contender using statistical methods that identify undervalued athletes. With good reviews and Academy Awards buzz for Pitt and his "Moneyball" teammates, Sony hopes the film will stick around in theaters well into the fall. It was a solid start for a film that looked dead in the water after Sony benched a previous version of "Moneyball" just days before shooting was to start in 2009.

That incarnation would have been made by Pitt's pal Steven Soderbergh, who directed him in the "Ocean's Eleven" movies. But Sony pulled the plug in a squabble with Soderbergh over the script. Soderbergh departed, but Pitt stuck with it, determined to bring Michael Lewis' best-seller "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game" to the screen.

Much of the book dealt with the number-crunching sabermetrics system Beane adopted. To bring out the drama, Sony hired Aaron Sorkin, an Oscar winner for his screenplay on "The Social Network," to rework a script whose previous scribes included Steven Zaillian, an Oscar winner for "Schindler's List." □

US filmmaker:

You'll like movie, or get a refund

JOE MANDAK
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Dr. Ravi Godse is on call nearly 24/7 as a top internal medicine specialist in Pittsburgh, but he so loves writing, directing and starring in movies that he wants other people to love them, too.

And he is so convinced people will love his third independent film being released on DVD on Tuesday, "Help Me Help You," that he's offering a money-back guarantee and a personal, e-mailed apology if they don't.

"These days, we are too busy and the money's too tight," said Dr. Ravi, as he likes to be called in person and as the recurring character in his films. "That's why I thought the apology was heartfelt. It's like, 'I'm sorry, guys, that I couldn't entertain you.'"

Godse began making movies in 2004 and "Help Me Help You" is the first to see a limited release in theaters. It's being released on DVD by Monarch Home Entertainment and sold through Amazon and elsewhere, but Godse can only offer the money-back guarantee to customers who buy it directly from him at www.helpmehelpyou-movie.com.

Those who don't like the movie can request a refund by e-mail without having to explain why. "It's on the honor system," he said. The guarantee is "funny, it's tongue-in-cheek. ... It's a great strategy," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of the box office division of Hollywood.com and a movie business analyst for The Associated Press.

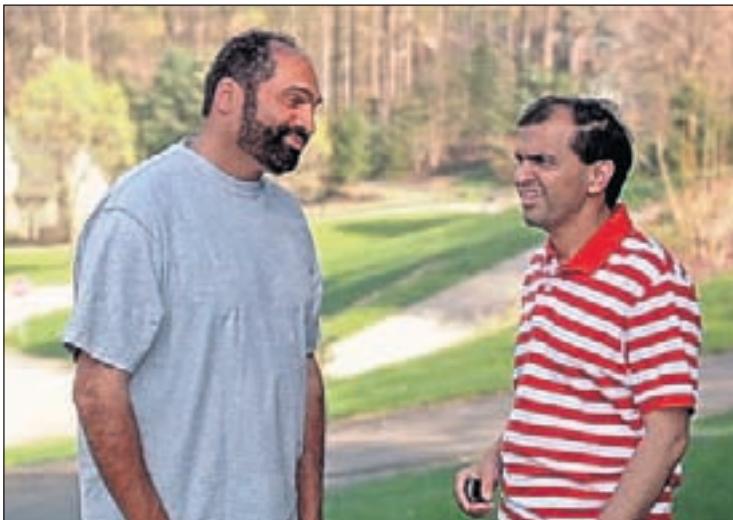
"He's definitely going the extra mile to make sure that people who don't know him as a filmmaker are comfortable with him and checking out the film. It's like a movie insurance policy," Dergarabedian said.

The money-back guarantee isn't the only big step Godse is taking with his third film.

"Help Me Help You" marks the first time the diminutive

doctor hired widely known TV and movie stars — Steve Guttenberg ("Diner," "Co-coon"), Richard Kind ("Spin City," "Curb Your Enthusiasm"), comedian and Disney sitcom star and director Rondell Sheridan, and

Famer Franco Harris, who lampoons the most famous play in Pittsburgh sports history — the Immaculate Reception — when he makes a similar catch of a cell phone thrown in his direction as he jogs past Godse



Pittsburgh Steelers Hall-of-Fame running back Franco Harris, left, and Ravi Godse are shown in a scene from Godse's independent film called "Help You Help Me." Godse so wants people to enjoy his movie that he is promoting the film by offering a money-back guarantee to anyone who buys a DVD of his independent film from his website starting Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Ravi Godse)

Sabrina Bryan, a former daytime soap star and member of The Cheetah Girls.

But Guttenberg cautioned against the idea that Godse is simply looking to cash in with name talent. "I'm hoping that he didn't hire me because I'm well-known. I'm hoping he hired me because he thinks I'm a good actor," Guttenberg told the AP.

"He's so sincere. He doesn't have an agenda bone in his body," Guttenberg said. "He's a pure artist. He really adores the medium and he adores the work, and only good is going to come from that."

And Guttenberg pooh-poohs the "plebian mentality" that the movie isn't big or expensive enough to be good. Godse shot it in 10 days with a budget of \$200,000, "though we like to call it 'under a million' to sound more important," Godse joked.

In earlier movies, he stuck with mostly local talent for his Pittsburgh-based films. "Help Me Help You" contains another homage to Pittsburgh: a cameo by Steelers pro football Hall of

and his angry wife in a park. Godse isn't afraid to poke fun at his alter ego, as evidenced by the self-deprecating titles of his first two direct-to-video films: "Dr. Ravi & Mr. Hyde" and "I Am A Schizophrenic and So Am I."

"Help Me Help You" raises the question of whether people should help those who don't wish to be helped. After Godse is told he has cancer and has six months to live, he picks six people to help improve their lives, and "he screws it up. Then it turns out he's not dying, so now all these people are out to get him," Godse said.

Lisa London, a veteran Hollywood casting director, fell in love with the story and thought of top-notch comedic talent to bring it to life.

"That was the selling thing for this was the story: It was a cute story. Actors want to do things because they like the script," London said. Kind said he likes smaller films because they rely on acting and came to admire Godse's ability to get his films made, quickly and economically. □

Michael Jackson saw salvation in dangerous drug

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Michael Jackson was physically exhausted from a day of grueling rehearsals for his marathon 50-night comeback tour. But his nightly battle with insomnia had just begun. After showering and getting into bed, he called for his "milk," a powerful drug he had been using to escape into unconsciousness.

Jackson saw the anesthetic known as propofol as his salvation. On June 25, 2009, it became the King of Pop's death potion.



Michael Jackson fans gather outside the Los Angeles Criminal Court where Dr. Conrad Murray, the doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death, appears for a procedural hearing in Los Angeles. Jackson's notoriously loyal fan based has re-emerged since Jackson's death.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut, file)

be a hard sell.

The drug is administered intravenously, usually during surgery. Scientific witnesses may be asked to explain how it could have gotten into his stomach. Some doctors say ingesting it orally is almost unheard of.

"It's an odd, on-the-edge defense theory," said Dr. Gil Tepper, chief of staff at Miracle Mile Medical Center in Los Angeles. "It would not put you to sleep and it would move through the system very rapidly, causing awful diarrhea."

There are few authoritative studies and few statistics on deaths caused by the drug. It remains uncertain if the judge will allow a Chilean doctor's study of students who voluntarily drank the drug or a study of pigs who received it rectally. □

The phony Solyndra scandal



JOE NOCERA

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If Brian Harrison and W.G. Stover, the two Solyndra executives who took the Fifth Amendment at a congressional hearing Friday, ever spend a day in jail, I'll stand on my head in Times Square. It's not going to happen, for one simple reason: Neither they, nor anyone else connected with Solyndra, have done anything remotely criminal. The company's recent bankruptcy – which the Republicans are now rabidly "investigating" because Solyndra had the misfortune to receive a \$535 million federally guaranteed loan from the Obama administration – was largely brought on by a stunning collapse in the price of solar panels over the past year or so. The company's innovative solar panels, high-priced to begin with, became increasingly uncompetitive in the marketplace. Solyndra didn't have enough big commercial customers to create the necessary economies of scale. And although Harrison and Stover remained optimistic up to the bitter end – insisting six weeks before the late-August bankruptcy filing that the company was going to be fine – they ultimately failed to raise additional capital that would have allowed Solyndra to stay in business. The Republicans are trying to make that optimism appear sinister, but if we've learned anything from the financial crisis, it is that wishful thinking in the face of a collapsing market is not a crime. Otherwise, Richard Fuld, the former chief executive of Lehman Brothers, would be wearing prison garb. Harrison and Stover are on the hot seat. Anything they say in their defense – even an off-hand remark – can and will be used against them. Their lawyers would be fools if they didn't insist that their clients take the Fifth Amendment. Do the Republicans know this? Of course. Do they care? Of course not. For an hour and a half Friday morning, they peppered the two men with questions about this "taxpayer rip-off," as Rep. Fred Upton, a Michigan Republican, described it, knowing full well that Harrison and Stover would invoke their constitutional right to remain silent. Joe McCarthy would have been proud. The purpose of the hearing – indeed, the point of manufacturing a Solyndra investigation in the first place – is to embarrass the president. That's how

Washington works in the modern age: The party out of power gins up phony scandals aimed at hurting the party in power. Undoubtedly, the Solyndra "scandal" will draw a little blood: There are some embarrassing emails showing the White House pushing to get the deal done quickly so it could tout Solyndra's green jobs as part of the stimulus package. But if we could just stop playing gotcha for a second, we might realize that federal loan programs – especially loans for innovative energy technologies – virtually require the government to take risks the private sector won't take. Indeed, risk-taking is what these programs are all about. Sometimes, the risks pay off. Other times, they don't. It's not a taxpayer rip-off if you don't bat 1.000; on the contrary, a zero failure rate likely means that the program is too risk-averse. Thus, the real question the Solyndra case poses is this: Are the potential successes significant enough to negate the inevitable failures? I have a hard time answering "no." Most electricity today is generated by coal-fired power plants, operated by monopoly, state-regulated utilities. Because they've been around so long, and because coal is cheap, these plants have built-in cost advantages that no new technology can overcome without help. The federal guarantees help lower the cost of capital for technologies like solar; they help spur innovation; and they help encourage private investment. These are all worthy goals. To say "no" is also to cede the solar panel industry to China, which last year alone provided some \$30 billion in subsidies for its solar industry. Overall, the U.S. solar industry is a big success story; it now employs more people than either steel or coal, and it's a net exporter. But solar panel manufacturing – a potential source of middle-class jobs, and an important reason the White House was so high on Solyndra, which made its panels in Fremont, Calif. – is another story. Not so long ago, China made 6 percent of the world's solar panels. Now it makes 54 percent and leads the world in solar panel manufacturing. Needless to say, the U.S. share of the market has shrunk. The only way America can manufacture competitive solar panels is to come up with innovative technologies that the Chinese can't replicate. Like, for instance, Solyndra's. At the hearing Friday, several of the Republican congressmen boasted that, in passing the continuing resolution to keep the government running the day before, they had succeeded in slashing the program that had made the loan to Solyndra. It's true: Of the \$4 billion that remained in the program, \$1.5 billion was cut. But the real winner isn't the U.S. taxpayer or even the House Republicans. It's the Chinese solar industry. □



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GAIL COLLINS

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Gloom pervades the land. Some people believe it's the economy. Others blame the weather. I think it's because the country is gradually coming to grips with the fact that Mitt Romney is going to be the Republican nominee for president. It is a scientific fact. Every minute, somewhere in America, another citizen realizes that Mitt is going to be in our face for the next 14 months. Conceivably for the next nine years. Children now in third grade might graduate from high school without ever experiencing a totally Romney-free day. This is not something I'm happy pointing out.

For one thing, I don't want to believe I live in a country that would seriously consider bestowing the nation's highest office on a man who once drove to Canada with the family dog strapped to the roof of the car. Plus, we have barely gotten started on Rick Perry, the last great Mitt alternative. Have you noticed how huge his chest and shoulders are? Looming over his lectern at Thursday's debate, he looked like a float. But it was impossible to watch that debate without realizing that Perry is not presidential timber, or even presidential polyurethane.

Here was Perry's answer to the inevitable question about what he'd do if the White House phone

Perry's bad night

rang at 3 a.m. In this case, the hypothetical call informed the hypothetical President Perry that the Taliban had gotten control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

"Well, obviously, before you ever get to that point, you have to build a relationship in that region. And that's one of the things that this administration has not done. Just yesterday we found out through Admiral Mullen that Haqqani has been involved with – and that's the terrorist group directly associated with the Pakistani country – so to have a relationship with India, to make sure that India knows that they are an ally of the United States." He went on to tell a story about how the Obama administration wouldn't sell upgraded F-16 fighters to India. Which never happened. Romney, meanwhile, was very much on his game, glib and grinning madly. He lashed into Perry for the Texas version of the Dream Act. ("If you're an illegal alien, you get an in-state tuition discount!") One of the very few silver linings in this story is that over the next year we'll all have a number of opportunities to revisit the saga of the undocumented immigrants who used to mow the Romney lawn. The debate stage was crowded with other would-be candidates, most of them pretty well worn.

The only newbie, former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, made a big splash with a joke about how his neighbor's two dogs produced more shovel-ready projects than Barack Obama did. Johnson cracked the place up! Line of the night! Then on Friday everyone discovered that Rush Limbaugh had told the joke the day before. The dog-owning neighbor joins the ever-growing throng of Republican Imaginary People, along with the woman who told Michele Bachmann the vaccine to prevent cervical cancer made her daughter

mentally retarded.

Perry appeared very cheerful during most of the debate – he has a way of cocking his head and grinning as if he saw a waiter entering the room with a large dessert. Perhaps he was anticipating the triumphant moment when he would be able to nail Romney for being a flip-flopper. This appeared to be something he had prepared for. When the opportunity presented itself, this is what Perry said:

"I think Americans just don't know sometimes which Mitt Romney they're dealing with. Is it the Mitt Romney that was on the side of – against the Second Amendment before he was for the Second Amendment? Was it – was before – he was before the social programs from the standpoint of – he was for standing up for Roe versus Wade before he was against first – Roe versus Wade? Him – he was for Race to the Top. He's for Obamacare and now he's against it. I mean, we'll wait until tomorrow and – and – and see which Mitt Romney we're really talking to tonight."

So there you are.

It is true that the nation has elected incoherent Texans to the White House before. But the first one had been vice president. And when George W. Bush was marching through the primaries, saying things that made no sense whatsoever, Republican voters told one another that if he got into trouble, he could always ask his parents for advice. I swear to you, that came up a lot.

But I always thought it was an excuse, to cover the fact that they were really just trying to avoid John McCain.

And then in 2008, they nominated McCain just to avoid Mitt Romney. No wonder they're miserable.

Next week, give a Republican a cookie, just to show you understand. □

Missoni evokes warm weather destinations

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Milan designers are in denial.

Or it could just be an act of collective will to dispel the growing economic gloom. Because when they look into their crystal ball for next summer, they see the tropics. They see parties. They see fun, a return to the Roaring '20s, the carefree '50s. Let's hope they are right. In any case, women are be-

of ruffles and the pleasing combination of yellow and chocolate bringing to mind a plantation.

Missoni's trademark knitwear was the mainstay of the collection, but Missoni also wove together leather for a more textured look and mixed in softer fabrics like silk, chiffon and rayon. The collection was on the racy side with lots of sheer fabrics — a look hot on Milan runways this round —

For awards season, Ferragamo created gowns that would trigger flashbulbs on any red carpet. Try a gold lame leopard print featuring layers of chiffon, a leg-baring slit, and a final flourish: a silk scarf over a bare shoulder.

For the party after, there was a fun and flirty flapper-style dress — a period oft evoked during Milan Fashion Week — with red and purple strings of beads that



A model wears a creation part of the Aquilano Rimondi women's Spring-Summer 2012 collection, unveiled in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

ing encouraged to show their under garments, slips sticking beneath hemlines and sheer dresses requiring coordinated lingerie. Dresses are shoulder-baring. Colors are often bold. Gold and silver lame shine throughout the collections.

MISSONI

Missoni evoked warm weather destinations from Spain to the Caribbean in the womenswear collection for next spring and summer. Angela Missoni created the mood in both cut — asymmetrical shapes, off-shoulder looks — and color — ultramarine with emerald, bold magenta, purple, yellow and chocolate — in the collection previewed Sunday during Milan Fashion Week. A Spanish flamenco dancer was suggested in off-shoulder top with ruffled asymmetrical skirts creating a swishing motion that invites the wearer to swirl around in dance.

The Caribbean was recalled in jungle prints, layers

requiring matching undergarments to complete the style. And Missoni also allowed necklines to plunge.

FERRAGAMO

Ferragamo's latest look packs easily for the tropics. Or the red carpet.

Lucky the girl who gets to do both.

Ferragamo designer Massimiliano Giornetti was decidedly fantasy-driven in the collection previewed Sunday during Milan Fashion Week — mostly leaving the workaday city behind. For an exotic getaway, the Ferragamo woman wears chic dresses in chiffon and silk that drape the body elegantly. The dresses sometimes are halters, or knotted to create a sexy bandeau top that wraps sensually around the neck. Colors are bold reds and purples, prints straight out of the tropics.

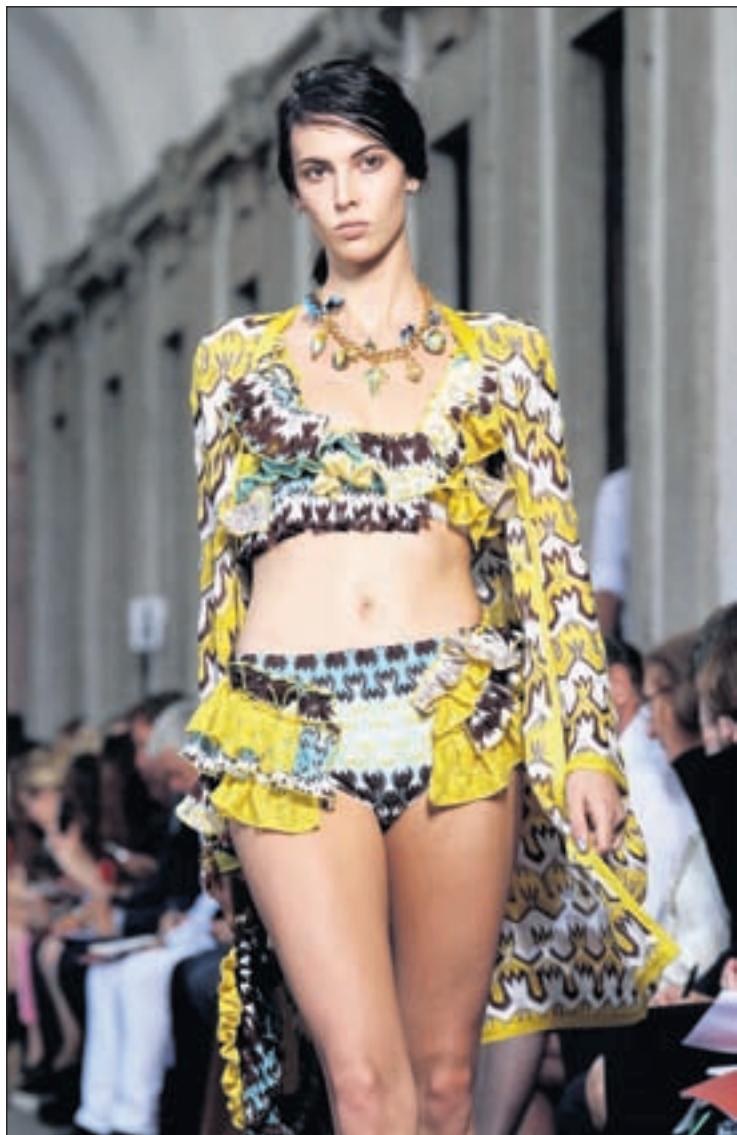
Sticking to Ferragamo's classic roots, Giornetti sometimes topped the dresses with men's jackets. □

dance in the light.

Shoes were high-heeled strappy sandals featuring a grooved heel from Ferragamo's archives, circa 1935. Colorful clutches and bucket bags were made of plaited leather.

LAURA BIAGIOTTI

Designer Laura Biagiotti, who has traveled the world with her fashion suitcase — she was the first Italian designer to show in China in 1988, and seven years later the first to show in Russia — stays closer to home this round, presenting a summer collection inspired by Venice, one of her first loves. Not only is the show presented Sunday full of Venetian references from the brocade and jeweled embroidery to the rich pastel palette, to the one-shouldered embroidered lace dress dedicated to the city's film festival and to the pop-glam sunglasses worn by American art collector and long-time Venice resident Peggy Guggenheim. □



A model wears a creation part of the Missoni women's Spring-Summer 2012 collection, unveiled in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



A model wears a creation part of the Salvatore Ferragamo women's Spring-Summer 2012 collection, unveiled in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)